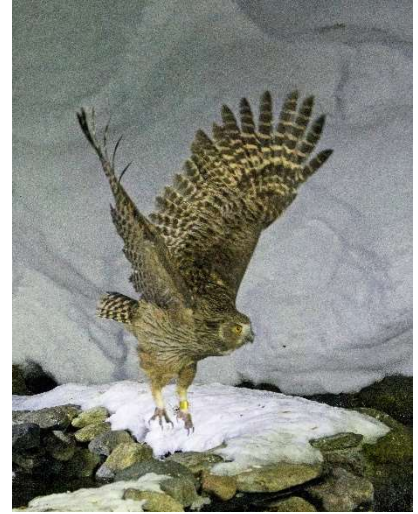




By Paul Manning



By Susan Rosegrant



By Tony Mills



Bird's, Wildlife & Nature  
Sunrise Birding LLC

**JAPAN**

Feb 04 – Feb 15, 2024

**TRIP REPORT**



**Photo: Red-crowned Cranes at sunrise by Tony Mills!**

# JAPAN - 2024

04<sup>th</sup> Feb – 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024

## HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Steller's Sea Eagle
- Blakiston's Fish Owl
- Red-crowned Crane
- Japanese Murrelet
- Asian Rosy Finch
- Japanese Waxwing
- Ural Owl
- Chinese Penduline Tit
- Grey-headed Woodpecker
- Hooded Crane
- Harlequin Duck
- Spectacled Guillemot
- Brown-cheeked Rail
- Long-billed Plover
- Mandarin Duck
- Ruddy-breasted Crake
- Long-tailed Rosefinch
- Siberian Crane
- White-tailed Eagle
- Baikal Teal
- Saunders's Gull
- Black-faced Spoonbill
- Crested Kingfisher
- White-naped Crane
- Falcated Duck
- White-backed Woodpecker
- Japanese Accentor
- Alpine Accentor
- J. Pygmy Woodpecker
- Varied Tit
- Sandhill Crane
- Smew
- Stejneger's Scoter
- Long-tailed Tit
- Japanese Hawk-Eagle
- Japanese Green Woodpecker
- Blue Rock Thrush
- Azure-winged Magpie
- Dusky Thrushes
- Red-flanked Bluetail
- Japanese Grosbeak
- Brown Dipper
- Naumann's Thrush
- Rough-legged Buzzard
- Japanese Macaque
- Japanese Bush Warbler
- Japanese Serow
- Red Fox
- Raccoon Dog
- Sea Otter
- Steller Sea Lion

## SUMMARY:

Whatever your expectations of Japan, nothing can quite prepare you for this extraordinary country, its people and wildlife. Whether it's the new technology of the bullet train, the tradition of Onsen Hotels, ice flows across the horizon, towering volcanos, or Japanese Macaques lounging in thermal pools, there is something for everyone in Japan. The beautiful scenery subtly changes from the cherry blossom trees, to expansive fields holding 13,000 cranes that include Hooded, White-naped and if you are lucky, as we were, a rare Siberian Crane. In the southern island of Kyushu, our group watched Japanese Murrelets bobbing around in the blue of the Pacific Ocean, while Crested Kingfishers appeared as if from nowhere on the smallest of fast running streams. Then there was the snow-covered mountains and volcanos of Karuizawa and Jigokudani with



the famous Japanese Macaques, Japanese Pygmy Woodpeckers, Japanese Grosbeak and the illusive Japanese Accentor. On to Hokkaido with its many hidden treasures, that included the mighty Blakiston's Fish Owl having a standoff with two Red Foxes, a Ural Owl surveying us from its favourite roost, and then the pure delight at watching dancing Red-crowned Cranes in the dazzling snow. If that's not enough we were



completely overwhelmed by the hundreds of Steller's and White-tailed Eagles sat just offshore on the ice pack, and viewable at super close range from our excellent boat.

## Day 1 Tokyo - 04<sup>th</sup> Feb

With everyone arriving today or a day or so before we were all keen to rest before the start of our epic tour.

## Day 2 Tokyo - Bullet Train - Karuizawa - Yudanaka - 05<sup>th</sup> Feb

We bade farewell to the Royal Park Hotel and Haneda airport with distant views of Mt. Fuji. Just a short bus ride with a drive by Dusky Thrush, Black-eared Kite, Mallard, Coot and Large-billed Crow brought the group to the Hakutaka (White Hawk) 557 **Bullet Train** departing to Karuizawa at 09:32, and yes it left at 09:32, and yes it was at 256kph. An hour later, by way of one of the world's engineering masterpieces, we arrived in Karuizawa.



The train conductors are a snapshot of the Japanese culture, bowing respectfully to all passengers in the carriage as they enter and exit. The author had already given up apologising for his westernness (if that's even a word!). An efficient transfer from train to our two big minibuses led us to a brief lunch stop by a small stream with a light dusting of snow all around noticeably increasing. Two pairs of Spot-billed Duck jostled in the fast-running water and a Japanese Green Woodpecker was an early surprise. A cracking male Bull-headed Shrike was on lookout duty and Brown-eared Bulbuls introduced themselves with their distinctive call as we packed up and moved onwards to Yudanaka. The snow had now started coming down

hard! A very productive stop at a nearby river and adjacent Lake Toden turned up more special birds as we were all now getting into the groove of snow birding. The character of this river had changed from previous trips and was much wider, perhaps there had been flooding issues but it meant that the tricky to see Long-billed Plover were far happier and 4 were noted, along with the White Wagtail, many Little Grebes, Smew, Teal, Wigeon and Mallard. The lake was nearly covered by a thin layer of ice, leaving the remaining ice-free areas the ideal place for Goosander, Smew and others. A Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker graced the narrow line of trees starting from the main road, accompanied by a pair of brightly coloured Grey Wagtails, and then a flock of Long-tailed Tits moved through the canopy alongside some Japanese Tits.



Moving on along the bank separating the river and lake, a party of Meadow Buntings flitted and a **Daurian Redstart** was well received by all as a Black-eared Kite looked on from its

nearby perch. By now the snow was well over boot level, but so dry your trousers didn't even get wet. We had a couple of hours driving ahead of us, so we returned to the vans and were sent on our way by two very showy Meadow Buntings atop the perfectly manicured hedge right in the car park. The snow was falling thicker than ever, slow traffic and a closed section of toll road meant we arrived at our hotel in the dark, so knew nothing of the outside world, but that was soon forgotten when the group was introduced to Japanese culture in the way of a **stunning dinner table** arranged to perfection with different shaped bowls and cups aligned precisely and later a wooden box presented to each diner, a mystery 'til opened. We all think we know a little about Japanese culture, but we don't really - it surpasses every thought. As I write this piece of the trip, I'm on route to Kyushu. The double chime has gone for the air hostesses to take their seats. Beautifully presented, they bow to their guests and take their seats. I say guests, as we aren't customers in their eyes...



### *Day 3 Snow Monkeys - Karuizawa - 06<sup>th</sup> Feb*

There's something rather special about waking in a traditional Japanese hotel surrounded by snow. However, we all had other things on our mind other than the view as we drove the short distance to Jigokudani Snow Park in anticipation of seeing the famous Japanese Macaques.



The heavy snow had stopped sometime in the night and soon the sky was cloudless with brilliant sunshine sparkling off the fresh, crisp snow. The mile wander up to the centre was full of expectation but it surpassed this author's dreams and expectations with some memorable and somewhat unexpected avian sightings on route. A party of Japanese Grosbeak were the first major emotional tick but were sat on thin branches in direct sunlight, we had better luck on the return walk! The weather had brought down 3 **Alpine Accentors** from their higher

residences and were oblivious to keen birders sitting in the snow as they wobbled around their feet. Of course, the stars were the **Japanese Macaques** (Snow Monkeys) who posed like the model pros they have become, even the very young have picked up on their parent's modelling talent and would strike a pose equal to Madonna any day. Stopping at a narrowing in the stream leading down from the Macaque pools, we could hear a familiar song, but it wasn't quite, right? It was a beautiful





series of rising and falling sharp notes cutting through the noise of the tumbling water. Locating the song proved a little tricky until the star popped out onto a rock - a Japanese Accentor not seen here in the past. The drive back to Karuizawa seemed all new as our recollections were somewhat masked by not being able to see through the snow storm on the way up... Stopping at the stream we'd visited on day 2, we tried for Japanese Waxwing in the Shinto Temple grounds on the opposite bank but without luck. 1-0 to the Waxwing. A few group members did spot a Brown Dipper that disappeared downstream.

### Day 4 Karuizawa - 07<sup>th</sup> Feb

We were up and out just before dawn for our first crack at the super elusive Copper Pheasant along a beautiful snow-covered track. Crossing the stream, some of the group picked up Brown Dipper, those that missed out would catch up with this species as they buzzed up and



down the stream that created the small valley. No Copper Pheasant and no Japanese Waxwings but Jo's sharp eyes found a very confiding **Japanese Serow** that permitted extended views as it bulldozed its way through the deep snow. The published descriptions say it looks like a cross between a deer and a goat but our feeling is it looked more like the body of a bear with something reminiscent of a goat's head stuck on top. Either way it didn't seem bothered by us, most probably because the snow was so deep, we'd have no chance of getting any closer

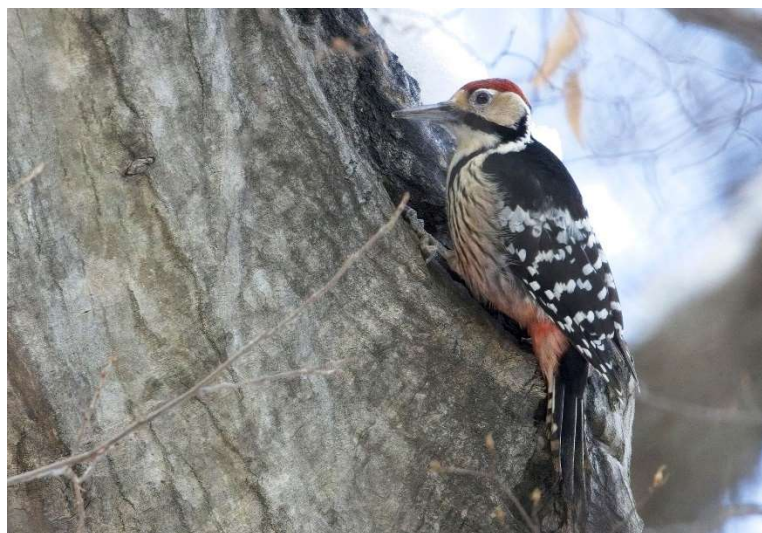
and it knew it. Returning to the Shinto Temple grounds, the sun was shining from a cloudless sky and the small field adjacent was alive with passerines. Meadow Buntings were foraging among the tall grasses and scrub edges and were joined by Rustic Bunting. In the trees

Brown-eared Bulbul fluttered and called, **Dusky Thrushes** were on the ground and in the trees, as were the noteworthy numbers of Hawfinch. It became 2-0 to the Japanese Waxwings but we did add a group of Brambling in a car park and a party of Azure-winged Magpie, plus, of course, Hawfinch. The waxwings were getting the better of us but a short drive back up the track we'd been along first thing came up trumps with a small group initially by the side of the track giving superb views. We were back in the game at 2-1. With waxwing seen, we



drove 20 minutes out of Karuizawa and parked up on a road that was blocked further down by a rock fall. We could hear a woodpecker but couldn't locate and a short distance on we came across a small area of snow free hillside by the road. It came as a surprise when we realised

Red-flanked Bluetail sightings had moved up to a respectable 5, with others sighted on the edge of the hotels pond and along the tracks earlier in the day. Attention moved to a thrush that wasn't Dusky and was soon identified as Pale Thrush cryptically digging among the leaf



litter. We reached the rock fall that blocked our onward quest for Copper Pheasant and shortly after turning back a woodpecker was seen moving from tree to tree low to the ground, **White-backed Woodpecker** brought our list of this family to 4 but whilst Tony and Paul quietly followed in the hope of a photo, Jo picked up a large lump in a tree on the ridge line, a very well received Mountain Hawk Eagle. Paul, being so pleased to have had time watching the woodpecker, it was only a chance comment about some eagle that he actually saw it at all! A

short distance by road to the reservoir we could see far below we were greeted by 2 stunning Japanese Wagtails engaged in a turf war and an absolutely stunning male Daurian Redstart. Tony wins the photo prize. Returning to Karuizawa for a further go at Copper Pheasant drew a blank but it was now 2-2 with the waxwings as a flock of 15 fed on mistletoe berries. Japanese Accentors were cryptic but successfully located on the edges of streams and the Brown Dippers continued to entertain but never settling for long.

### *Day 5 Karuizawa - Haneda - Kagoshima - Hyuga - 08<sup>th</sup> Feb*

Principally a transit day, we tried one last time for Copper Pheasant but to no avail, but in the dying seconds, we secured a 3-2 victory with a cracking **Japanese Waxwing** in the temple grounds, the only down side being cameras having been packed 10 minutes earlier! What's the psychology behind being overwhelmed by the possibility of a target bird and on seeing it emotions run so high but that emotion soon turns to a pretence of nonplus on subsequent sightings?

Whatever it is, it needs sending to the human evolutionary garbage bin, as nobody could ever get tired of seeing waxwings.



### *Day 6 Hyuga - Boat Trip - Arasaki - 09<sup>th</sup> Feb*

A short drive to the port in Hyuga and the buses were greeted by the local gang of Black-eared Kites crying to each other and perching anywhere they liked. A bird suddenly hopped up onto a nearby wall and was immediately identified as a male Blue Rock Thrush. Across the road from the fishermen repairing their nets, our pelagic fishing boat awaited. We were all on board in double quick time as everyone was eager to try to see the rare Japanese Murrelet. The weather was bright and sunny and although the Pacific had a gentle swell it was more or less calm of any chop. We soon passed through the harbours outer wall and past a group of



fish farm enclosures, one of which hosted a Pacific Reef Heron. Continuing on, it wasn't long before our skipper located the first couple of **Japanese Murrelets**, little black-and-white beasts in their element, disappearing only to re-emerge like a cork after being held under water. More groups of murrelets were located as we motored further out, as was a group of Japanese Cormorants standing like sentinels on the coastal rocks. Fun things always pass too quickly, as was the case for our group, and soon the skipper had turned back for home with a very happy, smiling bunch of passengers. The long drive to Izumi soon passed thanks to the memories of the morning and as dusk fell, we arrived at our hotel eager to be up before dawn to hopefully see some cranes.



## Day 7 Arasaki - 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

Creeping out of town in the twilight, our vans arrived in the expansive fields where the cranes roost. The light was too poor to see yet, but as soon as the doors were opened the haunting calls of numerous cranes could be heard nearby. Out of the improving gloom, small groups were seen flying overhead and, as the sun rose above the mountains, the true spectacle of over 10,000 cranes revealed itself. The sound and sight were almost a sensory overload, and initially it was difficult to take in the wildlife spectacle laid out before us. But then the keen birders among us were soon thinking whether we'd be very lucky and a big pure white bird would be among the throng.



And there it was standing stately about 1/2 mile away the Siberian Crane shone out like a beacon among its **Hooded** and **White-naped** cousins. At the feeding station, the attendant team were throwing out grain and a group of Sandhill Cranes were at the front of the queue.



A visit to the visitor centre added a solitary Common Crane and two Hooded x Common hybrids. The rest of the day was spent looking for woodland species around a nearby reservoir. As we crossed over a fast-flowing stream and looked left, a hulking great black-and-white kingfisher flew from its perch, landed briefly then moved on up river. Crested Kingfishers are BIG and a Common Kingfisher that also put in an appearance looked tiny in comparison.

On the reservoir, a group of exquisitely marked Baikal Teal bobbed alongside the more frequently encountered species.

A short drive on and Dave took us to a canal bordering the fields in the hope of a crake or rail, we heard them but seeing them wasn't to be this time. If we had known the views we would get of the **Ruddy-breasted Crake** and **Brown-cheeked Rail** the following day we'd need not have worried. At the end of the canal the channel opened to a small shallow pond where Dusky Thrushes bathed in the evening sun. In a moment of total disbelief, Paul looked at



Dave and said "it's a Naumann's Thrush" surely not, but there it was working its way through the leaf litter on the water's edge. Unforgettable!

### *Day 8 Arasaki Area - 11<sup>th</sup> Feb*

The following morning, Dave's extensive knowledge of the area meant the group were off to a much smaller area of fields interspersed with glass houses. He'd watched the Siberian Crane fly off the previous morning with a group of Hooded and White-naped Cranes and he had a hunch...which certainly paid off. There it was, the **Siberian Crane** looked like a Greek marble statue randomly placed in a small field and as we cautiously drove up the assorted group of cranes took no notice, not even when we opened the van doors and crept around for better views. No more than 50m away, stood one of the world's most iconic species, a bird that spends almost its entire life as far from humanity as is possible. After this exciting experience we moved on to a small reed fringed lake with an adjacent canal. The reed



bed hosted

two flocks of **Chinese Penduline Tits** and a few Reed Buntings, while on the muddy lake edge stood 6 Black-faced Spoonbills, smaller, and more slender than their cousins their brilliant white feathers seemed several shades whiter. Leaving the crane fields behind, we drove to Uki mudflats at the head of the bay, arriving just after high tide where ducks and gulls could be seen waiting for the mudflats to expose. Thirty minutes later, Saunders's Gulls we're flying past at eye level, occasionally dropping to the mud to pick up food, or

landing and walking around. (we counted an amazing 600+). Mallard, Wigeon, Eurasian Teal, Common Shelduck and a small number of Falcated Duck worked their way through the fringes



of the mud banks or swam around, whilst Kentish Plover and Dunlin scurried around higher up. Osprey and Black-eared Kite were in constant attendance and a Bull-headed Shrike and Blue Rock Thrush looked on.

### *Day 9 Arasaki - Kagoshima - Hokkaido - 12<sup>th</sup> Feb*

Our final pre-breakfast foray found us back at the reservoir and approaching from a different direction. It had been cold and windy the previous visits, but today, although there was still very much a chill in the air, the sun was shining from a clear sky and there was little wind. Two Sika Deer bounded away from the roadside and Japanese Grosbeaks started calling and



singing, along with Japanese White-eye from the area we'd inadvertently flushed a Crested Kingfisher the previous evening. Dave called out a high-flying Ryukyu Minivet as it passed overhead and three more were seen by some, but the buntings remained just fleeting glimpses so we moved out of the woods to an area of adjacent cultivation and were immediately rewarded with views of both Masked and Yellow-throated (Elegant) Bunting. The male Masked Buntings showing off their brilliant yellow body and brown heavily marked wings contrasting with the grey head. The **Elegant Buntings** were, well elegant!

From the dam, we drove the short distance to the wide expanses of agricultural land with their now familiar but never to be forgotten flocks of cranes. Saying farewell, we dragged ourselves away for the drive to the airport, only to have both vehicles simultaneously come to an abrupt halt as a female Green Pheasant strutted past us and rather comically into the front garden of a local farmer's house. We then completed our drive to the airport and flew to Hokkaido. Arriving here, the snow lay heavily as we drove to our hotel, the road verges demarcated by illuminated arrows to stop any hapless driver inadvertently coming off the road after the heavy snow. The hotel had a style reminiscent of a Swiss Chalet and dinner was waiting.

### *Day 10 Rausu - Eagle Boat Trip - 13<sup>th</sup> Feb*

A short drive pre-breakfast brought us to a bridge over a thermally warmed stream. The sun was just rising and we could see the first Red-crowned Cranes standing quietly in the shallow water. The National bird of Japan is surely one of the most elegant of birds. After breakfast we arrived at a series of fenced fields where more **Red-crowned Cranes** stood, preened and occasionally jumped high in the air performing their famous dance. Onwards to a couple of Ural Owl roosts, where Snow fairies (Long-tailed Tits) swung from the smallest branches, joined by Marsh Tit, Eurasian Nuthatch, and Eurasian Treecreeper, the latter two of Japanese subspecies. It wasn't long until we arrived on the North coast, the closest Japanese / Russian



disputed islands clearly visible separated by a smooth blue ocean, with washed up ice the size of cars lining the shore and a long ribbon of pack ice stretched across the horizon as far as

you could see. The sun shone, which apart for the epic snow storm at the start of our tour, it had done for the duration of the trip. After checking into our hotel, we were soon back out and catching up with the ever present Slaty-backed Gulls and smaller numbers of Glaucous-winged and Glaucous Gulls. The fishing harbour supported a good array of ducks, **Harlequin**



and Red-breasted Mergansers being the stars, and from atop the entry lighthouse a huge Steller's Sea Eagle scanned its domain. A drive along the peninsula to the visitor centre added Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Spectacled Guillemot, with Sika Deer wondering across the frozen ocean between the peninsula and mainland whilst fishermen sat quietly above their fishing holes. Later that evening our first trip to look for the Blakiston's Fish Owl left us all rather dejected as the only visitor was a Red Fox.

### *Day 11 Rausu - Eagle Boat Trip - 14<sup>th</sup> Feb*

And so began a day that everyone had long looked forward to. Our morning boat ride out to the pack ice off Rausu was quite simply an incredible experience. We estimated 350 **Steller's**



and White-tailed Eagles perched on the ice or gliding around the boat, whilst Harlequin Duck, Greater Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, and Tufted Duck swam around in small flocks inside the harbour. To see so many eagles in perfect weather conditions, and all so close was up there as one of the world's greatest avian



spectacles!! Words cannot come close to describing how good this was. Back on shore, a drive up the sand bar peninsula turned up 35 Asian Rosy Finch, Black and Stejneger's Scoter plus Long-tailed Duck, Pelagic Cormorant, and Spectacled Guillemot. We then headed back to base for a rest and re-charge before we were out again for our evening excursion to look again for the world's largest owl, the **Blakiston's Fish Owl**. This time the gods were on our side and we were privileged to watch this amazing owl hunting from a perch in competition with two rather beautiful, winter coat Red Foxes. To add to the excitement, some of the group had a drive by encounter with a Raccoon Dog which waddled down the side of the road and hopped over the curb disappearing into the inky darkness.

### *Day 12 Rausu - Cape Kiritappu - Kushiro - Tokyo 15<sup>th</sup> Feb*



Following the excitement of the previous night, we deserved a relaxed start to our last day. Pacific With snow forecast, the sun decided it wasn't going to show as we headed east along the coast road. Numerous Black Scoter dotted the sea and a couple of huge eagles hung out in trees. Arriving at Kiritappu headland, there were more ducks as we crossed the bridge and then climbing to the top of the hill, we had a brief encounter with an Eastern Buzzard which sadly disappeared behind a wooded slope. As compensation a confiding Rough-legged Buzzard was then picked up hanging in the updraft from the cliff edge. A little further on, passing 'the grumpy old man's house' we found a group of 30+ Asian Rosy Finches. Scanning from the headland car park and lands' end, we spotted Red-throated Loon, plus a Pacific Loon, and further on there were Harlequin Duck, Red-necked Grebe, and Spectacled Guillemot cruising around in the surf. Dave also picked out a solitary Pigeon Guillemot. Several Sea Otters lounging around on their backs, were a real thrill, and not thinking we'd improve on the mammal front and having already found one of the ubiquitous Red Foxes, Joanna called out a seal! And there it was, a huge **Steller Sea-lion** cruised around the headland popping up regularly to check us out (only the 2nd sighting for Dave in Japan, so a real good find!) Before long, it was time to go but not before a couple of Harbour Porpoise showed up. On the road back to the airport we stopped at the Crane Sanctuary especially for Rachel as she had missed out on Snow Fairies (**Long-tailed Tits**) earlier in the holiday. Right on queue, a small group moved across the path in front of us, whilst a White-backed Woodpecker watched us from high in a tree. What a perfect send off! To the airport and an impromptu Happy Birthday for Dave loudly sung in the middle of the terminal we sorted ourselves out for return flight.



Japan is truly beautiful, the scenery across the different islands gives the first-time visitor a snapshot of this sophisticated modern country that lovingly reveals its cultural past and stunning wildlife.

Kind regards

Paul & Dave

Photo credits

(**Paul Manning** – Bullet Train – Dinner Table – Japanese Murrelet – Harlequin Ducks – Steller's Sea Eagle)  
 (**Tony Mills** – Alpine Accentor – Japanese Macaques – Japanese Serow – Dusky Thrush – White-backed Woodpecker – Japanese Waxwing – Siberian Crane – Hooded Cranes – White-naped Crane – Ruddy-breasted Crake – Brown-cheeked Rail – Chinese Penduline Tit – Yellow-throated (Elegant) Bunting – Red-crowned Cranes – Blakiston's Fish Owl)

# BIRDLIST FOR JAPAN 2024

A = Number of species recorded on tour    B = Number of days out of 12 recorded    C = Highest daily count  
N/C = No Count

This list follows the IOC WORLD BIRD LIST v (14.3) and as such names may be different than some of the field guides and other taxonomy's – Subspecies if known are added in *Red*

A	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	B	C
1	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	3	25
2	Taiga Bean Goose	<i>Anas fabalis</i>	1	4
3	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	5	8
4	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	1	3
5	Stejneger's Scoter	<i>Melanitta stejnegeri</i>	3	4
6	Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta americana</i>	3	250
7	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula clangula</i>	3	25
8	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	2	6
9	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser orientalis</i>	4	25
10	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	3	30
11	Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	2	30
12	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	1	100
13	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	5	25
14	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	5	10
15	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila nearctica</i>	4	50
16	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	1	30
17	Baikal Teal	<i>Sibirionetta formosa</i>	2	17
18	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	4	150
19	Falcated Duck	<i>Mareca falcata</i>	2	25
20	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	4	10
21	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	7	50
22	Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	5	50
23	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos</i>	8	250
24	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	4	50
25	Green Pheasant	<i>Phasianus versicolor tohkaidi</i>	1	1
26	Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	1	10
27	Pacific Loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>	1	1
28	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis poggei</i>	5	4
29	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena holbollii</i>	1	15
30	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus cristatus</i>	2	6
31	Black-faced Spoonbill	<i>Platalea minor</i>	3	20+
32	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia leucorodia</i>	2	9
33	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea jouyi</i>	7	20
34	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba alba / modesta</i>	3	2
35	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta garzetta</i>	3	30
36	Pacific Reef Heron	<i>Egretta sacra sacra</i>	1	4
37	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus pelagicus</i>	3	50
38	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo hanedae</i>	5	25
39	Japanese Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capillatus</i>	1	15
40	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus haliaetus</i>	4	5
41	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus nisosimilis</i>	3	1



42	Japanese Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter gularis</i>	1	1
43	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> <i>fujiyamae</i>	1	1
44	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1	1
45	Black Kite (Black-eared Kite)	<i>Milvus migrans</i> <i>lineatus</i>	11	50
46	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> <i>albicilla</i>	3	100+
47	Steller's Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>	3	250+
48	Mountain Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>	1	1
49	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	1	1
50	Eastern Buzzard	<i>Buteo japonicus</i> <i>japonicus</i>	8	1
51	Brown-cheeked Rail	<i>Rallus indicus</i>	1	1
52	Ruddy-breasted Crake	<i>Zapornia fusca</i> <i>erythrothorax</i>	1	1
53	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> <i>chloropus</i>	1	2
54	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i> <i>atra</i>	5	10
55	White-naped Crane	<i>Antigone vipio</i>	4	1000+
56	Red-crowned Crane	<i>Grus japonensis</i>	2	150+
57	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	1	1
58	Hooded Crane	<i>Grus monacha</i>	3	1000+
59	Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i> <i>canadensis</i>	2	3
60	Siberian Crane	<i>Leucogeranus leucogeranus</i>	2	1
61	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> <i>squatarola</i>	1	3
62	Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>	1	4
63	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> <i>nihonensis</i>	2	40
64	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	2	25
65	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i> ( <i>sakhalina</i> or <i>kistchinski</i> )	1	150
66	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i> <i>gallinago</i>	3	2
67	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	2	2
68	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	3	2
69	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1	10
70	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	2	2
71	Saunders's Gull	<i>Saundersilarus saundersi</i>	1	600+
72	Black-tailed Gull	<i>Larus crassirostris</i>	2	25
73	Common Gull (Kamchatka)	<i>Larus canus</i> <i>kamtschatschensis</i>	3	60
74	Vega Gull	<i>Larus vegae</i> <i>vegae</i>	2	10
75	Lesser Black-backed Gull (Hueglin's)	<i>Larus fuscus</i> <i>heuglini</i>	1	1
76	Slaty-backed Gull	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>	3	200
77	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	1	1
78	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	3	6
79	Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cephus columba</i> <i>columba</i>	1	6
80	Spectacled Guillemot	<i>Cephus carbo</i>	3	25
81	Japanese Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus wumizusume</i>	1	10
82	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	6	N/C
83	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i> <i>orientalis</i>	7	20+
84	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i> <i>japonica</i>	2	2
85	Blakiston's Fish Owl	<i>Bubo blakistoni</i>	1	1
86	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> <i>bengalensis</i>	2	1
87	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i> <i>pallida/ lugubris</i>	3	1
88	Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos kizuki</i>	5	3
89	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i> <i>japonicus</i>	3	2
90	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i> <i>namiyei</i>	2	1

91	Japanese Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus awokera</i> <i>awokera</i>	4	2
92	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> <i>interstinctus</i>	4	2
93	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	1	1
94	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> <i>japonensis</i>	1	1
95	Ryukyu Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus tegimae</i>	1	4
96	Bull-headed Shrike	<i>Lanius bucephalus</i> <i>bucephalus</i>	7	3
97	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i> <i>japonicus</i>	6	10
98	Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	1	8
99	Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus dauuricus</i>	2	20
100	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i> <i>pastinator</i>	3	1000
101	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i> <i>orientalis</i>	11	50+
102	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> <i>japonensis</i>	11	200
103	Japanese Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla japonica</i>	2	22
104	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i> <i>insularis</i>	2	10
105	Varied Tit	<i>Sittiparus varius</i> <i>varius</i>	6	6
106	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i> <i>hensoni</i>	2	3
107	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i> <i>restrictus</i>	3	3
108	Japanese Tit	<i>Parus minor</i> <i>minor</i>	8	30
109	Chinese Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz consobrinus</i>	1	27
110	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	7	20
111	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i> <i>japonica</i>	3	20
112	Brown-eared Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes amaurotis</i>	10	20
113	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> <i>gutturalis</i>	2	10
114	Japanese Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis diphone</i> <i>cantans</i>	2	4
115	Warbling White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i> <i>japonicus</i>	6	2
116	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i> <i>japonensis</i>	1	1
117	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> <i>fumigatus</i>	2	1
118	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i> <i>clara</i> / <i>hondoensis</i>	4	3
119	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	2	1
120	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> <i>poltaratskyi</i>	1	10
121	White-cheeked Starling	<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>	8	60
122	Pale Thrush	<i>Turdus pallidus</i>	4	2
123	Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus eunomus</i>	8	25
124	Naumann's Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>	1	1
125	Red-flanked Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	3	5
126	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus auroreus</i> <i>auroreus</i>	7	5
127	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	2	1
128	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i> <i>pallasii</i>	3	3
129	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer cinnamomeus</i> <i>rutilans</i>	2	5
130	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i> <i>saturatus</i>	8	50
131	Japanese Accentor	<i>Prunella rubida</i>	3	2
132	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	1	3
133	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> <i>cinerea</i>	4	10
134	Japanese Wagtail	<i>Motacilla grandis</i>	7	6
135	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i> <i>lugens</i> / <i>leucopsis</i>	7	10
136	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	1	1
137	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	2	1
138	Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i> <i>japonicus</i>	5	15
139	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	2	250



140	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes japonicus</i>	5	25
141	Japanese Grosbeak	<i>Eophona personata personata</i>	5	30+
142	Long-tailed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus sibiricus</i>	1	1
143	Asian Rosy Finch	<i>Leucosticte arctoa brunneonucha</i>	2	80
144	Grey-capped Greenfinch	<i>Chloris sinica kawarahiba / minor</i>	7	100
145	Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea flammea</i>	1	6
146	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	2	10
147	Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata fucata</i>	3	4
148	Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides ciopsis</i>	6	15
149	Yellow-throated Bunting	<i>Emberiza elegans</i>	3	3
150	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus pyrrhulina</i>	2	5
151	Masked Bunting	<i>Emberiza personata</i>	2	5
152	Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rusticus</i>	3	10



Steller's Sea Eagles – just two of 250 together on the ice pack – by Tony Mills

## Other sightings

A	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	B	C
1	Japanese Macaque	<i>Macaca fuscata</i>	1	80
2	Japanese Serow	<i>Capricornis crispus</i>	1	1
3	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	3	14
4	Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	1	1
5	Japanese Squirrel	<i>Sciurus lis</i>	2	1
6	Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>	4	50
7	Eurasian Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	1	1
8	Common Raccoon Dog	<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>	1	1
9	Japanese Weasel	<i>Mustela itatsi</i>	1	1
10	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	1	4
11	Steller Sea Lion	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	1	1
12	Harbor Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	1	2



White-tailed Sea Eagle by Paul Manning



Sea Otter by Tony Mills



Ural Owl by Tony Mills