

Tour Report

Japan: Japan's Winter Wildlife

6-17 February 2020

Steller's sea eagle



Red-crowned crane



Japanese macaque



Blakiston's fish owl



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We experienced cold conditions in Hokkaido (at least down to -18°C), though temperatures generally increased as the tour progressed and seemed quite mild when we reached Honshu. The cold was at times challenging and limiting but also resulted in a beautiful landscape for photography and simple appreciation of our surroundings. Our four major targets were all achieved – Steller's sea eagle, red-crowned cranes gathered in numbers, Blakiston's fish owl coming in to feed and Japanese macaques surrounded by snow and ice.

Day 1: London

Thursday 6 February 2020

Most of us departed London on an overnight flight to Tokyo, some having left on the 5th.

Day 2: Honshu & Hokkaido

Friday 7 February 2020

We all met at the departure gate in Haneda domestic airport, Tokyo, late morning. Some of us had arrived that morning; others had spent the previous night in Tokyo. Upon arrival in Kushiro airport we were met by our local guide, Hiro. Haneda was snow-free but Hokkaido was blanketed in white, as expected. Our first stop was a convenience store where we bought some lunch and some longer-term supplies. From there we travelled to Tsurumidai, where food is scattered for red-crowned cranes. Feeding helped save this culturally significant species from possible extinction, with only 33 birds known to exist in 1952, and the Japanese population at 20 birds. There are now about 1,500 birds in Japan alone.

About 40 cranes were present when we arrived, with some coming and going during our stay, though numbers dwindled overall. A flock of long-tailed tit was seen in nearby trees, and they provided close photographic opportunities, though their acrobatic feeding posed some challenges. Japanese tit was also present. We moved on to Lake Kussharo, seeing sika deer, red fox, black kite and eastern (Japanese) buzzard en route. The lake was almost completely frozen over other than a couple of small patches of water kept open by input from hot springs. It was cold, and had snowed during the drive, but this didn't stop us from enjoying whooper swans, mallards and a sole eastern spot-billed duck. Two people were bathing in the hot springs, demonstrating fortitude. We moved on to another section of the lake, the hot sands, which was also almost entirely frozen over and held some whooper swan and mallard on a small area of open water. By now it was growing dark and we were happy to drive to our hotel at Kawayu, where we enjoyed our first Japanese meal as a group.

Day 3: Otowa Bridge, Tsurui-ito Crane Sanctuary & Lake Mashū

Saturday 8 February 2020

We met in the hotel foyer at 6.30am and left shortly afterwards; it was -12°C. We ate our pre-packed breakfast on the bus during the one-hour drive to Otowa Bridge on the Setsuri-gawa River. Surprisingly, the bridge was deserted, though a group of people did turn up while we were there. It is likely that this was due to coronavirus limiting the movements of Chinese tourists. The bridge is an iconic location for crane and landscape photographers. Initially, there were no cranes present, just crows and one male common goldeneye. One of the group noticed a white-tailed eagle on a small island, with attendant crows. Telescope views showed it was on a carcass, though we couldn't identify the dead animal. Our first Steller's sea eagle flew over and a female red-breasted merganser appeared downstream. A single red-crowned crane eventually flew in and landed on the island. A pair of long-tailed rosefinch was seen feeding in riparian reeds, though the telescope was required for even reasonable views. We subsequently learnt that the cranes hadn't roosted at the bridge for at least a few days.

We left the bridge and travelled a short distance to Tsurui-ito crane sanctuary. Grain was scattered in a field shortly after we arrived, with many cranes already waiting for the food. More arrived during our stay and at least 100 cranes were present at one stage. Many photographers lined the fence, with a remarkable array of camera equipment, but there was enough room for all of us to claim a space to photograph and

watch the birds. The cranes were a bit subdued but there was enough interaction, a bit of dancing and chasing, to keep us happy. From the sanctuary we drove back over Otowa Bridge to a known roost site for Ural owl. The bus dropped us off on the roadside and we walked a short distance onto private land to a tree with a large hollow. The owner is happy for people to enter his land if they don't disturb the owls. Unfortunately there were no owls in evidence for us to disturb.



Whooper swans Lake Kussharo

We drove to a small town near the sanctuary and lunched at a restaurant. The owner told Hiro that the owls hadn't been seen yesterday either, though they apparently spend much of their time hidden within the tree hollow. After lunch we drove for about an hour to Lake Mashū, a steep-walled crater (caldera) lake set within a very scenic landscape. Apparently it had at one time been considered the world's deepest lake, at 211.5 metres, but has now been surpassed by Russia's Lake Baikal, presumably due to additional measuring of the latter. It had snowed en route and continued to do so during our stay. Birds were, unsurprisingly, scarce given the conditions but we did have views of a Steller's sea eagle flying above the lake and the weather cleared sufficiently for a while to facilitate scenery photos.

During the drive back to the hotel we saw red fox, a species that proved common on Hokkaido even during the day, and two herds of sika deer. A bird feeder next to the hotel entrance was providing food for willow and Japanese tits, and Eurasian nuthatch when we arrived.

Day 4: Rausu

Sunday 9 February 2020

It was a cold start to the day: -18°C at 6am. We breakfasted at 7.30am for a leisurely 9am departure for our drive to Rausu. Varied tit came in repeatedly to the hotel bird feeder before our departure. Our first stop was only five minutes away – namely, the volcano Iō-san (Sulphur Mountain), whose 1,500+ vents release sulphurous gases and its geothermal activity heats the onsen in the village. Somewhat sickly looking yellow mounds, stained by the sulphur, dot the slopes. A Steller's sea eagle flew over.

The width of the roads and the snow and ice limited our opportunities to stop for photos during the drive to Rausu, though conditions were poor in any case, with heavy fog and limited visibility. Birds became more evident once we reached the coastal town of Shibetsu, with gulls, black kites and then white-tailed eagles becoming common. Some of us had a brief view from the bus of Steller's sea lion just offshore. The lunch stop gave us a view of 13 eagles, mostly white-tailed, perched on trees on a hillside. At Rausu harbour we boarded a boat for a one-hour cruise. There was no evidence of sea-ice and visibility was still poor, with light snow falling. The harbour held harlequin and tufted duck, red-breasted merganser, greater scaup, slaty-backed and veega gull and large-billed crow. Pelagic cormorants were just outside the harbour walls.

Presumably because of the poor weather (and we subsequently learnt the sea-ice was 100 kilometres away), the vessel hardly left the harbour. The crew threw fish out to the eagles, gulls and crows. Both Steller's and white-tailed eagles made the most of the largesse, with immature birds more common than adult eagles. At least 12 Steller's sea eagles sat on the outer harbour wall as we re-entered the harbour.

After disembarking we drove up to our hotel and checked in. Some of us then walked the short distance up to the Rausu Visitor Centre which has excellent wildlife displays of species relevant to the tour such as Blakiston's fish owl, white-tailed eagle, Steller's sea eagle and Steller's sea lion, among others. It is quite informative about local flora and fauna, albeit mostly in Japanese. It is very hands on. Some of us saw a brown dipper along the Rausu River as we returned to the hotel.

At 4.30pm we drove to Washi no Yado observatory, a short distance north of Rausu along the coast road. It was still light when we arrived and we seated ourselves in a heated room with windows overlooking a small stream. Blakiston's fish owl comes to the stream for fish left out at a small pond by the observatory's owner. The observatory has been running for more than 30 years. Not quite as long as Eurasian eagle owl, the endangered Blakiston's fish owl is considered the second largest of the owls but is heavier on average, ranging from 3.4-4.5 kg, compared to 1.5-4.6 kg for the eagle owl, and has a slighter longer wingspan. Detailed instructions about suitable settings for our cameras were provided, as flash photography is not permitted and the strobe effect of the floodlights affect your images if your shutter speed is too fast. An owl arrived at 6.20pm, perched in an adjacent tree briefly before descending to the pool to take a fish. It left a few minutes later. It snowed throughout much of our stay but we were very excited by our sighting, regardless of conditions.

Day 5: Rausu

Monday 10 February 2020

We experienced blizzard conditions overnight and our morning boat trip was cancelled. It was -8°C at 6am and predicted to rise to a maximum of only -6°C, with strong winds. At 10am, conditions had improved sufficiently that we got on the bus and drove to Shibetsu. Outdoor activities weren't worthwhile in the snow and wind so we changed the itinerary to include the Shibetsu Salmon Park, a wholly indoor activity. The complex includes aquaria with various salmon species, as well as trout, sturgeon, wolf fish and a host of other species. During the return journey we managed to stop for photos of Steller's sea eagle, white-tailed eagle and black kite. Lunch was in Rausu, with common goldeneye, red-breasted merganser, harlequin duck and slaty-backed gulls present along the shoreline across the road. Whooper swans were at the mouth of Rausu River.

We returned to the hotel for a break, before six of us returned to the Washi no Yado in the late afternoon. Conditions were still poor, though definitely improving, and a Blakiston's fish owl arrived at 5.20am, flew down to take a fish and left, carrying it. The observatory's owner said it had gone to feed its mate and would return soon. It returned after 10 minutes and sat in a tree for quite a long time before plunging into the stream, though without success. It then flew off again. We left after another 30 minutes, as it hadn't returned. The snow stopped as we drove back to the hotel for dinner.

Day 6: Rausu to Yoroushi

Tuesday 11 February 2020

Once again it was -8°C at 6am, but today there were clear skies and only a light breeze. We enjoyed a late breakfast, before climbing aboard the bus for our drive to Yoroushi. Before leaving Rausu we called in at the harbour, where we spent a very pleasant hour enjoying the excellent photographic conditions and the presence of many eagles. At one stage there were at least 56 Steller's sea eagles on the outer sea wall, with many more in the air. They were probably outnumbered by white-tailed eagles. Also present, in or around the harbour, were whooper swan, slaty-backed gull, red-breasted merganser, common goldeneye and large-billed crow. Ducks were surprisingly scarce at Rausu this morning though we did see more species during the subsequent drive along the Notsuke Peninsula prior to lunch. Black scoter was quite common close inshore and a few of us saw long-tailed duck during a toilet stop.

We had two glimpses of Steller's sea lions in the water from the bus, two of the group had brief views of the distinctive *stejnegeri* subspecies of harbour seal close to shore, we all enjoyed a very tame red fox that approached the bus, contrary to the behaviour of its fellows, and there was an abundance of sika. The sika were very obliging, with a fighting pair of males by the roadside proving very photogenic, and a group drinking from a pool of water in a car park allowing very close approach. Other species observed included glaucous gull and the *kamtschatschensis* subspecies of mew gull. Brown-eared bulbul was present outside the restaurant where we ate lunch. After lunch we drove to our next accommodation, Hotel Daiichi at Yorouchi.

This charming hotel has bird feeders just outside large windows in a lounge and adjoining dining room. There is also a small pool where fish are placed to attract Blakiston's fish owl. The feeders were in use when we arrived, with Japanese pygmy and great spotted woodpeckers, Japanese and willow tits and Eurasian nuthatch all feeding on the offerings. Immediately beyond the feeders is a small stream, though unfortunately the trail along the stream was closed due to the quantity of snow. We were content with watching and photographing the birds through the hotel windows. After dinner, two sable appeared from under the building to raid the food left on a feeding platform. They appeared quite nervous and their repeated forays were brief. At 8.20pm a Blakiston's fish owl flew down and spent quite some time peering into the pool before plunging in to catch a live fish. It eventually flew off, after many photos, only for the sable to re-emerge. Presumably they consider the owl a potential predator.

Day 7: Yorouchi to Kushiro & on to Tokyo

Wednesday 12 February 2020

A mustelids appeared briefly at 6am and both brown dipper and great spotted woodpecker flew by but we didn't have time to linger at the bird feeders. Today we were returning to Tokyo via Lake Furen. It was 12°C this morning at Yorouchi but Tokyo had a predicted maximum of 14°C, which would seem positively warm. We left the hotel at 6.30am, taking packed lunches on the bus. A café at Lake Furen throws frozen fish out to the waiting Steller's sea eagles, white-tailed eagles, black kites and crows. We arrived before feeding time and the trees were already dotted with birds awaiting food. The fish was carted out at 9am and we spent an enjoyable hour watching and photographing the birds squabble over the food. We then drove a short distance to a 'road station', a building selling food and souvenirs. The trees held a few white-tailed eagles and black kites, and a short walk in the woods produced dusky thrush and brown-eared bulbul. We continued to Kushiro airport, with a brief stop beforehand at a convenience store for lunch. At the airport we said our goodbyes to Hiro and our driver and flew back to Haneda domestic airport. We were met by Yamamoto, a local guide, who escorted us to a bus to take us to our new accommodation, the Shinagawa Prince Hotel. We later spilt up into small groups for dinner and ate in restaurants/bars close to the hotel.



Sika deer, Notsuke Peninsula



Steller's sea eagle, white-tailed eagle, Lake Furen

Day 8: Tokyo to Nagano by bullet train & on to Yamanouchi**Thursday 13 February 2020**

We ate breakfast in any of the three restaurants in the hotel, not gathering as a group and eating when and where it suited us. Yamamoto met us in the foyer at 9am and escorted us to the train station where we caught a local train to the bullet train. She saw us off from the platform and, comfortable journey complete, we were met in Nagano by Hitoma. We drove by bus for about an hour to Yamanouchi, stopping at a convenience store for some lunch and supplies for tomorrow. Hitoma provided a detailed explanation of Nagano and Yamanouchi during the drive. Once suitably provisioned, we continued to Shibu Hotel, our accommodation for two nights. This very attractive hotel has views overlooking the Yokoyu River that flows through Yamanouchi. We had no scheduled activity and most people wandered around the historic town. Several of us meandered along the river birding, some finding the weather surprisingly warm after Hokkaido. This was quite fruitful, with eastern buzzard, bull-headed shrike, white-cheeked starling, pale thrush, meadow bunting, Japanese and white wagtails and a variety of other common, widespread species. We enjoyed a lavish and very enjoyable traditional Japanese meal in the hotel.

Day 9: Yamanouchi & Jigokudani**Friday 14 February 2020**

We breakfasted, with typical Japanese diversity in the meal, at 7.30am and were taken at 8.30am by the hotel bus to look for Japanese macaque. Unfortunately the forecast was for a maximum of 8°C, somewhat too warm for our target species and desired activity. The bus dropped us off in a car park from where we walked past Enza Café and a gift shop to the entrance to a park. From there it is a 1.6-kilometre walk through forest to Jigokudani, where troops of macaques bathe in a hot spring, created specifically for them. A few of these so-called 'snow monkeys' were sitting around the hot tub when we arrived, with many more scattered in the surrounding area. Snow carpeted much of the ground and many macaques searched in the snow for grain that had been thrown out by park staff. Despite the snow we found the conditions relatively mild, perhaps because of our somewhat chillier sojourn in Hokkaido.

The macaques largely ignored us, simply moving around or between the people, often very closely, skipping in and out around people's legs. Many macaques drank from the hot spring, unfortunately most deciding not to actually bathe in it. Those that sat around the edge provided interesting photographic opportunities, though the steam rising from the water presented a challenge. After two hours we decided to leave, it being obvious that no more individuals were going to add to the two young animals that had briefly entered the hot spring. We walked back to the Enza Café, seeing varied, coal, willow and Japanese tit en route. A mixed-species flock came past the café as we had a leisurely lunch. It included Japanese pygmy woodpecker, varied tit, long-tailed tit, Eurasian wren, brambling, siskin and grey-capped greenfinch. The café called the hotel after lunch and they sent a bus to take people back to the hotel. Some of us walked back and two of the group saw hawfinch during the walk. We had no scheduled activity for the remainder of the day. Birding along the Yokoyu River provided Daurian redstart, bull-headed shrike, dusky thrush, Japanese wagtail and a few other species. We again ate in the hotel, with one course including fugu, the infamous puffer fish, though it was difficult to identify what was actually the fish in question.

Day 10: Yamanouchi to Zenko-ji Temple & on to Tokyo**Saturday 15 February 2020**

We ate breakfast at the hotel. Our guide, Hitoma, and a bus arrived at 9.30am. We drove to Zenko-ji Temple in Nagano Prefecture. The main hall in the temple grounds is a National Treasure and was reconstructed in 1707. Set within a very large area, with multiple buildings, the site includes Buddhist sutras and a temple bell with a 1632 inscription. Immediately adjacent are streets with restaurants, cafés and souvenir shops. Hitoma guided us around several buildings, including the main hall, explaining the history and cultural practices and then set us loose to find our own lunches and wander around. The grounds supported a few bird species, including dusky thrush, hawfinch, brown-eared bulbul and Oriental turtle dove. Two of the group saw Japanese waxwing. We eventually all met again and were driven to the bullet train, where Hitoma made sure we went to the correct platform. Two of the group said their

goodbyes to us on the train as they were leaving the tour at this point and taking another bullet train. Once again Yamamoto met us and guided us to another train and then onto Shinagawa Prince Hotel.

Day 11: Tokyo to London

Sunday 17 February 2020

After breakfast five of us were taken to Haneda International Airport and caught a flight back to London. Two of the group were on later flights to different destinations, whilst another two were staying on in Japan for a few days.

Mammal, bird and reptile species recorded during the trip are listed hereunder.



2020 tour participants, Shibu Hotel, Yamanouchi

Checklist



Species Recorded	Hokkaido	Honshu	Comments
Mammals			
Japanese Macaque <i>Macaca fuscata</i>		✓	Very common at Jigokudani around the hot springs and buildings. One seen in Yamanouchi.
Red Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	✓		Common, often seen during the day.
Sable <i>Martes zibellina</i>	✓		Two seen at night at the feeding platform at Yoroushi. The identity of these animals took some time to be resolved due to the possibility of Japanese marten and variable fur colour within the species.
Sika Deer <i>Cervus nippon</i>	✓		Very common and very tame in places, especially on the Notsuke Peninsula.
Steller's Sea Lion <i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	✓		Seen three times while driving south of Rausu.
Harbor Seal <i>Phoca vitulina stejnegeri</i>	✓		Brief views of this distinctive subspecies from Notsuke Peninsula.
Birds			
Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	✓		Reasonably common in Hokkaido generally. Very common in the harbour at Akkeshi en route to Kushiro.
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	Present in small numbers a number of locations.
Eastern Spot-billed Duck <i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	✓		One seen at Lake Kussharo.
Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>		✓	Small flock along Yokoyu River at Yamanouchi.
Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	✓		Several seen at Rausu.
Greater Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	✓		Seen in small numbers at Rausu and elsewhere along the coast.
Harlequin Duck <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	✓		Reasonably common along the coast, including in Rausu harbour.
Black Scoter <i>Melanitta americana</i>	✓		Reasonably common along the coast south of Rausu. A pair seen in-flight during the Rausu boat trip.
Long-tailed Duck <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	✓		Several seen from Notsuke Peninsula.
Common Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	✓		Seen occasionally in small numbers, including Otowa Bridge and Rausu.
Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>	✓		Seen regularly around Rausu and a single bird at Otowa Bridge.
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	Single birds seen at Shibetsu and on Yokoyu River in Yamanouchi.
Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	One or more seen repeatedly along Yokoyu River.
Pelagic Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	✓		Common offshore from Hokkaido, including at Rausu Harbour.
Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	✓	✓	Reasonably common, more so on Hokkaido, especially at Shibetsu and Lake Furen. Sometimes split as black-eared Kite <i>M. lineatus</i> .
White-tailed eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	✓		Very common along coast of Hokkaido. One seen at Otowa Bridge.

Steller's Sea Eagle <i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>	✓		Common on Hokkaido, especially along the coast and at Lake Furen. Singles seen at Otowa Bridge, Lake Mashu and Sulphur Mountain.
Eastern Buzzard <i>Buteo japonicus</i>	✓	✓	Seen occasionally, mostly near Kushiro though one was seen in Yamanouchi.
Red-crowned Crane <i>Grus japonensis</i>	✓		Common in the Kushiro area.
Mew (Common) Gull <i>Larus canus kamtschatschensis</i>	✓		Small numbers along Notsuke Peninsula. Regarded as a subspecies of <i>canus</i> by the IOC and HBW, Kamchatka Gull <i>L. kamtschatschensis</i> (also spelt <i>camtschatschensis</i>) may be a full species. Olsen (2018) recognises it as a 'distinct taxon within the Common Gull complex'.
Glaucous Gull <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	✓		Seen in small numbers along the Hokkaido coast.
Vega Gull <i>Larus vegae</i>	✓		Seen in small numbers along the Hokkaido coast.
Slaty-backed Gull <i>Larus schistisagus</i>	✓		Common along the Hokkaido coast.
Rock Dove <i>Columba livia</i> l	✓	✓	Seen around human infrastructure.
Oriental Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>		✓	Seen in Yamanouchi and at Zenko-ji Temple.
Blakiston's Fish Owl <i>Bubo blakistoni</i>	✓		Seen on consecutive nights at Washi no Yado owl observatory and at Yuyado Daiichi hotel at Yoroushi.
Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos kizuki</i>	✓	✓	Singles seen at Yoroushi and Enza Café at Yamanouchi.
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major japonicus</i>	✓		One or more seen at Yoroushi.
Bull-headed Shrike <i>Lanius bucephalus</i>		✓	Seen twice seen along the Yokoyu River in Yamanouchi.
Eurasian Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	Subspecies <i>japonicus</i> (Japanese Jay) was seen at Yamanouchi and en route to Jigokudani.
Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone orientalis</i>	✓		Common, more so inland. Possible future split as Oriental Crow <i>C. orientalis</i> . Probably over-looked on Honshu.
Large-billed Crow <i>Corvus macrorhynchos japonensis</i>	✓	✓	Common, especially on the coast. Possible future split as Japanese Crow <i>C. japonensis</i> .
Japanese Waxwing <i>Bombycilla japonica</i>		✓	Seen and photographed at Zenko-ji Temple.
Coal Tit <i>Pariparus ater</i>		✓	Reasonably common around Yamanouchi.
Varied Tit <i>Sittiparus varius</i>	✓	✓	Seen at the bird feeder at Kawayu Kanko. Reasonably common around Yamanouchi. Also at Zenko-ji Temple.
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montanus</i>	✓	✓	Common. Seen at Kawayu Kanko, Yoroushi and Enza Café at Yamanouchi. Marsh Tit <i>P. palustris</i> was probably over-looked.
Japanese Tit <i>Parus minor</i>	✓	✓	Common. Seen at Kawayu Kanko, Jigokudani, Yoroushi and Enza Café at Yamanouchi.
Brown-eared Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes amaurotis</i>	✓	✓	Common around buildings especially at Yamanouchi.
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	✓	✓	Nominate race seen near at Tsurumidai and Otowa Bridge. Eastern race <i>trivirgatus</i> was common around Yamanouchi.
Eurasian Wren		✓	One seen briefly by some at Enza Café.

<i>Troglodytes troglodytes fumigatus</i>			
Eurasian Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	✓		Seen at feeders at Kawayu Kanko and Yoroushi.
White-cheeked Starling <i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>		✓	Seen at Yamanouchi and in transit around Nagano.
Pale Thrush <i>Turdus pallidus</i>		✓	One seen by some at Yamanouchi.
Dusky Thrush <i>Turdus eunomus</i>	✓	✓	Seen occasionally, always as single birds.
Daurian Redstart <i>Phoenicurus aureoreus</i>		✓	A female seen along the river at Yamanouchi.
Blue Rock Thrush <i>Monticola solitarius</i>		✓	One seen and photographed in Yamanouchi.
Brown Dipper <i>Cinclus pallasii</i>	✓	✓	Seen on a stream in Rausu, at Yoroushi and the Yokoyu River.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓	Common around human infrastructure.
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	One seen briefly on the Yokoyu River.
White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	Reasonably common in Yamanouchi.
Japanese Wagtail <i>Motacilla grandis</i>		✓	Common along Yokoyu River and around buildings in Yamanouchi.
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		✓	Flocks seen at Enza Café and in Yamanouchi.
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		✓	Single birds seen in Yamanouchi and briefly by some at Zenko-ji Temple.
Grey-capped (Oriental) Greenfinch <i>Chloris sinica</i>		✓	One seen in Yamanouchi. One seen at Enza Café.
Eurasian Siskin <i>Spinus spinus</i>		✓	Several seen at Enza Café.
Meadow Bunting <i>Emberiza cioides</i>		✓	Reasonably common along Yokoyu River in Yamanouchi.
Reptiles			
Red-eared Slider <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>		✓	An invasive species from America, now found in many countries. One seen in a pond at Zenko-ji Temple.

References, Recommended Reading & Resources

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White-tailed eagle, Lake Furen