

**JAPAN**  
**June 20 to July 13, 2015**



## Author

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## Introduction

Japan has for many years been a country that I have had a wish to visit, but I have hesitated because of perceived difficulties connected to for example language and costs. After spending 23 days in Japan I now know that there is no reason at all to hesitate about traveling to Japan - it offers high-quality birding, interesting culture, fantastic food, beautiful nature and friendly and helpful people. In regards to costs most things are less expensive than in Sweden, which came somewhat as a surprise. Albeit few Japanese speak fluent English, they really make an effort to help you in any way they can. Japan is most definitely a country I can recommend visiting!

This trip consisted of two parts. In the first one we had a focus on birding, searching for target species on Hokkaido, on Miyakejima and in the Mt. Fuji area. The second part was entirely focused on learning more about Japanese religions and culture in places like Kyoto, Nara and Koya-san.

We flew with Turkish Airlines from Gothenburg, Sweden to Tokyo Narita via Istanbul and home from Kansai International Airport (KIX), Osaka via Istanbul. The cost for the return tickets was 6000 SEK p.p. We bought return tickets from Tokyo Haneda to Kushiro, Hokkaido on ANA's website. The return tickets cost 2240 SEK p.p. We rented a car through Holiday Autos (Europcar) on Hokkaido for six days for 3260 SEK. We got it and returned it at Kushiro Airport. Although the staff did not speak any English whatsoever it was very easy to get and return the car. To drive in Japan one needs an International driver's license. We pre-booked most of our lodging through <http://www.booking.com/>. This worked out very well. The exceptions were Furen Lodge and Snapper Inn which were booked via e-mail, and Washi-no-yado Minshuku which Takeyoshi Matsuo at Furen Lodge helped us book. It was easy to find out about bus and train connections through this site: <http://www.hyperdia.com/en/>.

All in all 130 species were recorded. Among the many high quality species the highlights were *Falcated Duck*, *Red-crowned Crane*, *Latham's Snipe*, *Spectacled Guillemot*, *Tufted Puffin*, *Japanese Wood-Pigeon*, *Blakiston's Fish-Owl*, *Japanese Woodpecker*, *Varied Tit*, *Middendorff's-*, *Pleske's-* and *Gray's Grasshopper-Warbler*, *Japanese-*, *Sakhalin-* and *Ijima's Leaf Warbler*, *Japanese-*, *Brown-headed-* and *Izu Thrush*, *Japanese Robin*, *Siberian Rubythroat*, *Japanese Accentor*, *Japanese Grosbeak* and *Chestnut-eared-*, *Yellow-* and *Gray Bunting*. Almost all of the important target species were seen, the exceptions being *Copper Pheasant*, *Japanese Murrelet*, *Ashy Minivet* and *Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher*.

## Itinerary

- June 19 Flight from Gothenburg (5.40 pm) via Istanbul (10.05 pm) to Tokyo Narita.
- June 20 Arrival to Tokyo Narita at 6.30 pm.  
Lodging: Hotel Nikko Narita (10.000 ¥).
- June 21 Transfer with bus from Tokyo Narita to Tokyo Haneda. Flight from Haneda to Kushiro (11.45 am to 1.20 pm). Drive from airport to Furen Lodge.  
Lodging: Furen Lodge (14.400 ¥).
- June 22 Shunkunitai Peninsula, Nature Trail at Nature Center, Ochiishi Nature Cruise and Nosappu Misaki.  
Lodging: Furen Lodge (14.400 ¥).
- June 23 Lake Choboshi, Nemuro and Nosappu Misaki.  
Lodging: Furen Lodge (14.400 ¥).
- June 24 Yarimukashi, Notsuke Hanto and Rausu.  
Lodging: Washi-no-yado Minshuku (16.000 ¥).
- June 25 Shiretoko Pass and Shiretoko Nature Cruise.  
Lodging: Washi-no-yado Minshuku (16.000 ¥).
- June 26 Shiretoko Pass and Tofutsu-ko.  
Lodging: Asanebo, Kawayu (13.600 ¥).
- June 27 Kawayu. Drive to Kushiro. Flight from Kushiro to Tokyo Haneda (2-3.45 pm). Ferry (Tokai Kisen Ferry) from Tokyo Takeshiba Pier Ferry Terminal to Miyakejima, leaving 10.30 pm.
- June 28 Arriving to Miyakejima at 5 am. Izu Misaki, Toga Misaki and Tairo-ike.  
Lodging: Snapper Inn (20.200 ¥ including room, breakfast, dinner and rental car).
- June 29 Miyakejima: Tairo-ike and Toga Misaki. Ferry to Tokyo Takeshiba Pier Ferry Terminal (1.35-7.40 pm).  
Lodging: Bayside Hotel Azur Takeshiba (13.000 ¥).
- June 30 Bus from Keio Bus Center, Shinjuku, Tokyo to Yamanaka-ko with Chuo Express Bus.  
Lodging: Yamanouchi Guest House (8100 ¥).
- July 1 Yamanaka-ko: Oohora-no-mizuba Spring.  
Lodging: Yamanouchi Guest House (8100 ¥).
- July 2 Yamanaka-ko: Oohora-no-mizuba Spring. Bus to Kawaguchi-ko. Bus to Fifth Station, Gogome, Mt. Fuji.  
Lodging: Hotel Rakuyu (21.600 ¥).
- July 3 Bus from Kawaguchi-ko to Mishima Train Station. Shinkansen train from Mishima to Kyoto.  
Lodging: Hotel Vista Premio (11.390 ¥).
- July 4-6 Kyoto.

- July 7 Train from Kyoto to Nara.  
Lodging: Hotel Fujita Nara (11.840 ¥).
- July 8 Nara.  
Lodging: Hotel Fujita Nara (11.840 ¥).
- July 9 Train from Nara to Koya-san.  
Lodging: Shukubo Koya-san Eko-in Temple (22.600 ¥).
- July 10-11 Koya-san.  
Lodging: Shukubo Koya-san Eko-in Temple (22.600 ¥ per night).
- July 12 Train from Koya-san to Osaka.  
Lodging: Hotel Richmond Namba Daikokucho (10.800 ¥).
- July 13 Flight from Kansai International Airport (KIX) (10.30 pm) to  
Gothenburg via Istanbul.
- July 14 Arrival to Gothenburg at 11.20 am.



*Tufted Puffin, Ochiishi, June 22*

## Literature

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Brazil, Mark, *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Japan*, Kodansha International, Tokyo, 1987.

Brazil, Mark and Chris Cook, *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Japan Online*,

<http://www.japannatureguides.com/a-birdwatchers-guide-to-japan-by-mark-brazil/>

Brazil, Mark, *Birds of East Asia*, Helm Field Guides, London, 2009.

Hottola, Petri, *East Hokkaido in June 2010*,

<http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/Hokkaido.pdf>

Hottola, Petri, *Miyake Jima, Izu Islands, in June 2014*,

<http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/Miyakejima.pdf>

Road Atlas Japan, Shobunsha, English Edition, 1991.

## Site-by-site Account

### HOKKAIDO

#### Furen-ko

We stayed in Furen Lodge, which is situated at the eastern end of Furen-ko and run by Takeyoshi Matsuo and his wife. This was a very pleasant place with comfortable beds and excellent breakfast and dinner. The lodge is walking distance both to the Shunkunitai peninsula (*Far-Eastern Curlew*) and to a nature center with a nature trail (*Sakhalin Leaf Warbler*, *Narcissus Flycatcher*). *Sakhalin Grasshopper-Warbler* sang outside of the lodge. The best place for *Red-crowned Cranes* at our visit was Lake Onneto, east of the lodge.



*Spectacled Guillemot, Ochiishi, June 22*

## Ochiishi Misaki and Lake Choboshi

From Ochiishi we took Ochiishi Nature Cruise, <http://www.ochiishi-cruising.com/>. This was a memorable cruise with highlights like *Laysan Albatross*, *Tufted Puffin*, *Common Murre* and *Spectacled Guillemot*.

We also walked parts of a loop nature trail at Lake Choboshi. Unfortunately this trail is very overgrown and hence difficult to walk. Nevertheless, it produced *Japanese Robin* and *Brown-headed Thrush*.



*Laysan Albatross, Ochiishi, June 22*

## Nosappu Misaki

This easternmost point of Hokkaido was visited two times. The most interesting species recorded were *Spectacled Guillemot*, *Harlequin Duck*, *Pacific Loon* and *Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler*. This is said to be the best place in Japan for *Red-faced Cormorant*, but we never found any, despite some focused searching.

## Notsuke Hanto

This is a beautiful peninsula famous for its flower meadows and salt marshes. This is the only site where we saw *Falcated Duck* and *Black Scoter*, but otherwise nothing much exciting was seen.

## Shiretoko Hanto

We stayed in Washi-no-yado Minshuku, east of Rausu, for two nights. This is a famous site for *Blakiston's Fish-Owl*. Every night living fish are placed in a small pond in the middle of a stream, which is obviously attractive to the owls. The area is lit by searchlights. People sit along windows in the restaurant or in their rooms in the lodge waiting for the owls to turn up. Personally, I feel that this was not as exciting as expected, both because the birds were fed fish and because the experience was shared with bus-loads of photographers. When it comes to the Minshuku I would not recommend it; the walls of the rooms were paper thin, why you could hear every possible sound from "neighbors", and the rooms were small.



*Blakiston's Fish-Owl, Washi-no-yado Minshuku, June 24*

From Rausu harbor we took a trip with Shiretoko Nature Cruise, <http://www.e-shiretoko.com/>, which Takeyoshi Matsuo at Furen Lodge helped us book in advance. This is supposedly a good cruise for *Orcas*, but we only saw two *Dall's Porpoises*. Bird wise the cruise was not very productive but we saw a *Pomarine Jaeger* and *Short-tailed-* and *Sooty Shearwaters*.

Shiretoko pass was visited two mornings. Both times it was foggy at the pass but generally better weather conditions below it. The main target species in this area were *Japanese Accentor* and *Gray Bunting*. Despite searching intensely for *Japanese Accentor* at the pass we had no luck. According to Takeyoshi Matsuo they are getting rarer in this area. When it comes to *Gray Bunting* a male was found the second morning east of the pass. This was along the main road just northwest of the trail leading to Lake Rausu-ko, where there are parking space on both sides of the road. Other interesting birds seen in the Shiretoko pass area were *Dark-sided Flycatcher*, *Eurasian Bullfinch* and *Red Crossbill*. This is also supposed to be a good site for *Pine*

*Grosbeak*. *Kamchatka Leaf Warbler* is said to be possible during spring migration. Just before the first road tunnel between Rausu and Shiretoko pass is an area where we saw *Long-billed Plover*, *Mandarin Duck* and *Brown Dipper*. We parked at Kumanoyu Onsen and walked a few hundred meters west to reach the area.

### **Tofutsu-ko**

We stopped at Koshimizu Natural Flower Garden at Gensei Kaen Railway Station. This was a beautiful flower garden between the Okhotsk sea and Tofutsu lake. Here we saw *Chestnut-eared Bunting*, *Siberian Rubythroat* and *Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler*. *Eurasian Hobby* and *Eastern Marsh-Harrier* hunted in the lake area.



*Siberian Rubythroat, Koshimizu Natural Flower Garden, June 26*



## Kawayu

Here we stayed at the homely Asanebo near Kawayu railway station. We arrived late evening too tired to do any night birding, i.e. listening for owls, nightjars etc. A few hours of morning birding was done along a trail, starting at a trailhead found between Kawayu village and the turn-off to the car park at Iwo-san (described on page 121 in Brazil's *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Japan*). The trail was rather difficult to walk because a large portion of it was overgrown, but it was quite productive in some parts: *White-bellied Pigeon*, *Black Woodpecker* and *Scaly Thrush*. A brief stop was also done at Nibushi where *Brown-headed Thrush* was seen.



*Owston's Tit, Miyakejima, June 28*

## HONSHU

### Miyakejima

On Miyakejima we stayed in Snapper Inn, which offered meals and the possibility to rent a car for a low cost. We easily saw all the important species: *Pleske's Grasshopper-Warbler*, *Izu Thrush*, *Ijima's Leaf Warbler* and *Japanese Wood-pigeon*. Furthermore, we saw the local subspecies of *Varied Tit*, a.k.a. *Owston's Tit*, which might get species status. We had extreme luck with the weather here, since we had clear blue skies during our visit which took place during the rainy season. The ferry trip back to Tokyo provided good opportunities to scan the sea from the boat deck. Despite excellent light conditions and calm weather this much anticipated event turned out to our disappointment, since we saw neither *Japanese Murrelet*, nor *Tristram's*, *Swinhoe's*- or *Band-rumped Storm-petrels*. However, a few *Bulwer's Petrels* and *Flesh-footed Shearwaters* showed themselves well.

### **Yamanaka-ko and Mt. Fuji**

Here we stayed for two nights at Yamanouchi Guest House near Yamanaka-ko, and one night in Hotel Rakuyu in Kawaguchi-ko. We walked two times from the guest house to Oohora-no-mizuba Spring, a site supposed to be good for passerines coming to the spring to drink. Unfortunately, we had no luck here and only saw some *Narcissus Flycatchers*. But the walk to and from the site along forest roads was excellent, and produced target species like *Japanese Woodpecker*, *Yellow Bunting*, *Siberian Blue Robin* and *Japanese Thrush*. An especially good area was the trails in the garden/forest next to the tourist information east of the guest house.

We had a clear blue sky the afternoon spent walking from the Fifth Station (Gogome) to the Seventh Station of Mt. Fuji. The Fifth Station was reached by bus from Kawaguchi-ko. It was a wonderful walk, which to our great joy produced both *Japanese-* and *Alpine Accentor* and several *Japanese Leaf Warblers* and *Red-flanked Bluetails*.



*Alpine Accentor, Mt. Fuji, July 2*

## List of Bird Species

In the species list below, I have followed the nomenclature of Clements Checklist 6.9.

### **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Up to six seen daily in Yamanaka-ko, June 30, July 1 and July 2.

### **Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*

2 along Shiretoko Odan Road, June 26.

### **Falcated Duck** *Anas falcata*

Male and female in pond close to the lighthouse Ryujinzaki on Notsuke Hanto, June 24.

### **Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

1 in pond close to the lighthouse Ryujinzaki on Notsuke Hanto, June 24.

### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Seen nine days.

### **Eastern Spot-billed Duck** *Anas zonorhyncha*

2 in river close to Sanjo Railway Station, Kyoto, July 4 and 5.

### **Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*

6 in pond close to the lighthouse Ryujinzaki on Notsuke Hanto, June 24.

### **Greater Scaup** *Aythya marila*

5 and 7 respectively in Furen-ko, June 21 and 22, 40 along Hwy 244 south of Odaitominocho, June 24 and 16 in Tofutsu-ko, June 26.

### **Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus*

1 at Nosappu Misaki, June 22.

### **Black Scoter** *Melanitta americana*

9 at the lighthouse Ryujinzaki on Notsuke Hanto, June 24.

### **Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

1 in Yamanaka-ko Lake, June 30.

### **Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

2 along Hwy 244 south of Odaitominocho, June 24.

### **Chinese Bamboo Partridge** *Bambusicola thoracicus*

2 heard calling at Tairo-ike, Miyakejima, June 29.

### **Pacific Loon** *Gavia pacifica*

25 at Nosappu Misaki, June 22.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

2 on Lake Choboshi, June 23 and 2 in pond close to the lighthouse Ryujinzaki on Notsuke Hanto, June 24.

**Laysan Albatross** *Phoebastria immutabilis*

3 on tour with Ochiishi Nature Cruise, June 22.

**Northern Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

30 on tour with Ochiishi Nature Cruise, June 22 and 45 on tour with Shiretoko Nature Cruise, June 25.

**Bulwer's Petrel** *Bulweria bulwerii*

3 between Miyakejima and Tokyo, June 29.

**Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas*

Very common around Miyakejima, June 28 and 29.

**Flesh-footed Shearwater** *Puffinus carneipes*

2 between Miyakejima and Tokyo, June 29.

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

A few on tour with Shiretoko Nature Cruise, June 25 (identified from photographs taken).

**Short-tailed Shearwater** *Puffinus tenuirostris*

2 on tour with Ochiishi Nature Cruise, June 22 and hundreds on tour with Shiretoko Nature Cruise, June 25.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Seen in Tokyo, June 21 and June 29 and in Kyoto, July 6.

**Japanese Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax capillatus*

Common on Hokkaido, June 22-23 and 25-26.

**Pelagic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*

Common on Hokkaido, June 22-23 and 25-26.

**Gray Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Seen eleven days.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

Seen eight days.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

1 on Miyakejima, June 28 and 29.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

1 at Tairo-ike, Miyakejima, June 29.

**Eastern Marsh-Harrier** *Circus spilonotus*  
3 at Tofutsu-ko, June 26.

**Japanese Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter gularis*  
1 close to Yarimukashi, June 24.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*  
Seen nearly daily in small numbers.

**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*  
Common on Hokkaido, seen there daily June 22-27.

**Red-crowned Crane** *Grus japonensis*  
7 at Onneto Ohashi, June 23, 2 just west of Furen Lodge, 1 in Yarimukashi and 3 on Notsuke Hanto June 24 and 2 at western part of Tofutsu-ko, June 26.



*Red-crowned Crane, Yarimukashi, June 24*

**Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*  
2 and 1 respectively at Furen-ko, June 21 and 22.

**Long-billed Plover** *Charadrius placidus*  
2 along Shiretoko Odan Road, June 26.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*  
1 along Shiretoko Odan Road, June 26.

**Far Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*  
5 at Furen-ko, June 22.

**Latham's Snipe** *Gallinago hardwickii*  
1 between Furen Lodge and Ochiishi and 1 in marshland close to Futaoki, June 22,  
2 at Lake Choboshi, June 23 and 1 on Notsuke Hanto, June 24.

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*  
1 on tour with Shiretoko Nature Cruise, June 25.

**Common Murre** *Uria aalge*  
1 on tour with Ochiishi Nature Cruise, June 22.

**Spectacled Guillemot** *Cephus carbo*  
20 on tour with Ochiishi Nature Cruise and 1 at Nosappu Misaki, June 22.

**Rhinoceros Auklet** *Cerorhinca monocerata*  
Very common on Hokkaido, June 22-23 and 25.

**Tufted Puffin** *Fratercula cirrhata*  
7 on tour with Ochiishi Nature Cruise, June 22.

**Black-tailed Gull** *Larus crassirostris*  
Very common on Hokkaido, June 21 to 26 and also observed in smaller numbers on  
Miyakejima, June 28-29.

**Slaty-backed Gull** *Larus schistisagus*  
Very common on Hokkaido, June 21 to 26.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*  
5 in Tokyo, June 27.

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*  
Common, observed daily except for on Miyakejima.

**Japanese Wood-Pigeon** *Columba janthina*  
25 and 10 respectively on Miyakejima, June 28-29.

**Oriental Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*  
Common, seen and heard every day of the trip.

**White-bellied Pigeon *Treron sieboldii***

1 along the trail at the nature center close to Furen Lodge, June 22, 1 at Lake Choboshi, June 23, 2 in forest close to Yarimukashi, June 24, 2 along trail south of Kawayu and 5 at Mashu-ko, June 27 and 2 at Yamanaka-ko, July 2.

**Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus***

1 at the trail in the nature center close to Furen Lodge and 1 in Ochiishi, June 22, 1 at Lake Choboshi, June 23, 1 in forest close to Yarimukashi and 1 on Notsuke Hanto, June 24.

**Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus***

1 along the trail at the nature center close to Furen Lodge, June 22, 1 at Lake Choboshi, June 23, 1 in forest close to Yarimukashi, June 24, 2 at Shiretoko Pass, June 25-26 and 2 along trail south of Kawayu, June 27.

**Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus***

Common on Miyakejima, June 28-29 and 3 at Yamanaka-ko, July 2.

**Blakiston's Fish-Owl *Ketupa blakistoni***

2 and 1 respectively at Washi-no-yado Minshuku, Rausu, June 24 and 25.

**Northern Boobook *Ninox japonica***

1 on Miyakejima, June 28.

**White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus***

1 along a trail just east of Hwy 243 en route towards Yarimukashi, June 24.

**Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus***

2 at Furen-ko and 20 at Ochiishi, June 22, 2 along a trail just east of Hwy 243 en route towards Yarimukashi, June 24, 8 and 15 respectively at Shiretoko Pass, June 25 and 26, 10 and 15 respectively on Miyakejima, June 28 and 29 and 2 at Mt. Fuji, July 2.

**Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos kizuki***

1 at Nibushi, Kussharo-ko, June 27, 1 and 2 respectively on Miyakejima, June 28 and 29, 2 in the Yamanaka-ko-area, July 2 and 1 in Koya-san July 11.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major***

1 along the trail at the nature center close to Furen Lodge, June 22, 3 in forest close to Yarimukashi, June 24, 5 in the Kawayu area, June 27, 1 and 2 respectively in the Yamanaka-ko-area, July 1 and 2.

**Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius***

1 along trail south of Kawayu, June 27.

**Japanese Woodpecker *Picus awokera***

1 and 3 respectively in the Yamanaka-ko-area, July 1 and 2.

**Gray-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus***

2 in forest area close to Furen Lodge, June 23.

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

2 at Tofutsu-ko, June 26.

**Bull-headed Shrike** *Lanius bucephalus*

3 at road stop between Kushiro and Furen-ko, June 21, 1 along trail south of Kawayu, June 27 and 1 on Miyakejima, June 28.

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

1 in forest close to Yarimukashi, June 24, 1 along trail south of Kawayu, June 27 and 2 in Koya-san, July 11.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Common, seen daily.

**Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Common, seen almost daily.

**Sky Lark** *Alauda arvensis*

Common in suitable habitat on Hokkaido.

**Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia*

Observed five of the days on Hokkaido.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Observed daily on Honshu, including Miyakejima.

**Asian House-Martin** *Delichon dasypus*

Common in Rausu, June 25 and 26, and in the Yamanaka-ko-area, June 30, July 1 and 2.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

4 at Arashiyama, Kyoto, July 6 and 2 at Koya-san, July 11.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Common on Hokkaido, June 21 to 27.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

2 along trail south of Kawayu, June 27.

**Varied Tit** *Poecile varius*

2 and 1 respectively on Miyakejima, June 28 and 29, 1 in the Yamanaka-ko-area, July 1 and 2, 1 in Kyoto, July 3 and July 5 and 1 in Koya-san, July 10.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Common, observed almost daily.

**Japanese Tit** *Parus minor*

Common, observed almost daily.



**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

4 along the nature trail at the nature center close to Furen Lodge, June 22, 3 at Lake Choboshi, June 23 and 2 in Koya-san, July 10.

**Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

8 along the nature trail at the nature center close to Furen Lodge, June 22, 4 at Lake Choboshi, June 23 and 2 in Kawayu, June 27.

**Eurasian Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

2 along trail at the nature center close to Furen Lodge, June 22, 2 at Lake Choboshi, June 23, 2 in forest close to Yarimukashi, June 24, 3 and 2 respectively at Shiretoko Pass, June 25 and 26, 1 in the Yamanaka-ko-area, July 1 and 2, 1 at Mt. Fuji, July 2 and 1 at Koya-san, July 11.

**Eurasian Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

1 at Koya-san, July 10.

**Brown Dipper** *Cinclus pallasii*

1 along Shiretoko Odan Road, June 26.

**Brown-eared Bulbul** *Hypsipetes amaurotis*

One of the most common birds on Honshu, including on Miyakejima.

**Asian Stubtail** *Urosphena squameiceps*

1 at Washi-no-yado Minshuku, Rausu, June 25 and 26.

**Japanese Bush-Warbler** *Horornis diphone*

Very common, observed every day of the trip.



*Japanese Leaf Warbler, Mt. Fuji, July 2*

**Japanese Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus xanthodryas*  
5 at Mt. Fuji, July 2.

**Sakhalin Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealoides*  
2 along the trail at the nature center close to Furen Lodge, June 22, 4 at Lake Choboshi, June 23 and 5 in forest area close to Yarimukashi, June 24.

**Eastern Crowned Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus coronatus*  
Common on Hokkaido.

**Ijima's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus ijimae*  
Common on Miyakejima, June 28 and 29.

**Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler** *Locustella ochotensis*  
2 at Nosappu Misaki and 10 in marsh area between Nosappu Misaki and Nemuro, June 22, 5 at Lake Choboshi and totally 12 between Furen Lodge and Lake Choboshi, June 23, 20 on Notsuke Hanto, June 24 and 2 at Tofutsu-ko, June 26.

**Pleske's Grasshopper-Warbler** *Locustella pleskei*  
7 and 2 respectively on Miyakejima, June 28 and 29.

**Sakhalin Grasshopper-Warbler** *Locustella amnicola*  
1 at Furen Lodge, June 22 and 1 at Kawayu, June 27.

**Black-browed Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*  
1 at Furen Lodge, June 21, 1 at Furen Lodge, 1 in Ochiishi and 7 at Nosappu Misaki, June 22, 1 at Furen Lodge and 2 at Lake Choboshi, June 23 and 3 on Notsuke Hanto, June 24.

**Japanese White-eye** *Zosterops japonicus*  
1 in Kawayu, Hokkaido, June 27 and common on Honshu.

**Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea*  
Common in the forests around Koya-san, July 10 and 11.

**Dark-sided Flycatcher** *Muscicapa sibirica*  
2 east of Shiretoko Pass, June 26.

**Asian Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa latirostris*  
2 at Lake Oboshi, June 23, 1 in Kawayu and 2 in the Yamanaka-ko-area, July 2.

**Japanese Robin** *Larvivora akahige*  
2 at Lake Choboshi, June 23, and common around Tairo-ike, Miyake-jima, June 28 and 29.

**Siberian Blue Robin** *Larvivora cyane*  
1 in the Yamanaka-ko-area, July 2.

**Siberian Rubythroat** *Calliope calliope*

1 in Ochiishi, June 22, 1 at Lake Choboshi, June 23, 2 on Notsuke Hanto, June 24 and 3 at Tofutsu-ko, June 26.

**Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*

4 at Mt. Fuji, July 2.

**Narcissus Flycatcher** *Ficedula narcissina*

3 along trail at nature center close to Furen Lodge, June 22, 1 east of Shiretoko Pass, June 26, 1 in Kawayu, June 27, 3 and 5 respectively in the Yamanaka-ko-area, July 1 and 2 and 1 in Koya-san July 11.

**Blue Rock-Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*

1 along Hwy 334 south of Utoro, June 26.

**Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus*

Common on Hokkaido.

**Scaly Thrush** *Zoothera dauma*

3 in Kawayu, June 27.

**Japanese Thrush** *Turdus cardis*

2 in the Yamanaka-ko-area, July 2.

**Brown-headed Thrush** *Turdus chrysolaus*

1 at Lake Choboshi, June 22 and 3 in Kawayu, June 27.

**Izu Thrush** *Turdus celaenops*

Common on Miyakejima, June 28 and 29.

**Chestnut-cheeked Starling** *Sturnia philippensis*

4 between Kushiro and Furen-ko, June 21, 5 along the trail at the nature center close to Furen Lodge, June 22, 2 in Nemuro, June 23 and 5 in the Yamanaka-ko-area, June 30.

**White-cheeked Starling** *Sturnus cineraceus*

7 in the Yamanaka-ko-area, June 30, 2 at Arashiyama, Kyoto, July 6 and common in Nara, July 7 and 8.

**Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris*

1 at Mt. Fuji, July 2.

**Japanese Accentor** *Prunella rubida*

1 at Mt. Fuji, July 2.

**Gray Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

1 at Washi-no-yado Minshuku, June 24, 25 and 26, 1 between Rausu and Shiretoko Pass, June 26, 1 and 2 respectively in the Yamanaka-ko-area, July 1 and 2, and 1 in Koya-san, July 11.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*  
Common, seen almost daily.

**Japanese Wagtail** *Motacilla grandis*  
5 at Arashiyama, Kyoto, July 6.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*  
7 in the Yarimukashi-area, June 24, 5 and 4 respectively at Shiretoko Pass, June 25 and 26 and 6 at Mt. Fuji, July 2.

**Meadow Bunting** *Emberiza cioides*  
1 close to Utoro, June 26, common on Miyakejima and in the Yamanaka-ko-area, June 28 to July 2.

**Chestnut-eared Bunting** *Emberiza fucata*  
5 at Tofutsu-ko, June 26.



*Chestnut-eared Bunting, Tofutsu-ko, June 26*

**Yellow Bunting** *Emberiza sulphurata*  
1 in the Yamanaka-ko-area, July 2.

**Black-faced Bunting** *Emberiza spodocephala*  
Very common on Hokkaido.

**Gray Bunting** *Emberiza variabilis*  
1 east of Shiretoko Pass, June 26.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

2 at Nosappu Misaki, June 22 and 4 on Notsuke Hanto, June 24.

**Eurasian Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

2 at Lake Oboshi, June 23 and 1 east of Shiretoko Pass, June 25 and 26.

**Long-tailed Rosefinch** *Uragus sibiricus*

1 along the trail at the nature center close to Furen Lodge and 2 at marsh between Nemuro and Nosappu Misaki, June 22.

**Oriental Greenfinch** *Chloris sinica*

Common, seen almost daily.

**Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

9 at Shiretoko Pass, June 25.

**Eurasian Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

1 east of Shiretoko Pass, June 25.

**Japanese Grosbeak** *Eophona personata*

3 in Koya-san, July 11.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Common, seen every day of the trip.