

Japan: Birding & Nature Species List | January 7-23, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Guided by Bryan Shirley & Takumi Koichi along with NJ Host Emily Renkey. Participants: Penny, Carol, Adrian, Donna, Lise, Clifford, Jeanne, Pete, Wendi, Carrie, Stephanie, and Rena

Summary: Wonderful birding and wonderful group on this 16 day trip to Japan. Visited 3 Islands – Kyushu in the south, then Honshu, and Hokkaido in the North. A bit of odd weather this time – it was very cold in Kyushu and relatively mild in Hokkaido giving us similar temps throughout the tour.

Highlights included:

- Over 10,000 White-naped and Hooded Cranes in Kyushu
- A gorgeous male Copper Pheasant on Honshu
- Snow Monkeys (Japanese Macaque) in Nagano
- Amazing views of both Steller’s Sea Eagle and White-tailed Eagle from our boat in Hokkaido
- Multiple views of Blakiston’s Fish-Owl at our wonderful onsen

The eBird link below details the 155 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you’re new to eBird, be sure to click “Show All Details” on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

trip list of all species along with birding locations can be found here:

[Japan: Birding & Nature | January 7-23, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

Mammals (8):

Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* – A couple were hanging around the bird feeder at Yoroshi

Sea Otter *Enhydra lutris* – One was spotted just off the coast near the hide at Onnemoto

Japanese Badger *Meles anakuma* – We had one scurry up the bank near Kogawa Dam, then about an hr later Koichi found a few young ones hiding in a culvert and they would stick their heads out every few minutes

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* – common in Hokkaido. Especially good looks on the Notsuke Peninsula

Spotted Seal *Phoca largha* – A few were sighted just offshore near the end of the Nemuro Peninsula

Japanese Macaque *Macaca fuscata* – we had a great day at Jigokudani watching them play in the hot springs and running around the area. Also had a small group hanging out near an abandoned shop near Karuizawa

Japanese Serow *Capricornis crispus* – Had wonderful views of one standing just a few feet from the bus. It hardly moved and we spent a while watching it and taking photos

Sika Deer – *Cervus nippon* – Common and seen daily in Hokkaido, especially great views of several males along the Notsuke Peninsula