

Japan Birding & Nature Species List | January 7-23, 2026 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Bryan Shirley. Our clients included: Cliff, Margaret, Stella, Derek, Cay, Barb, and Darren in Hokkaido

Fabulous 17 day tour covering Kyushu, Honshu, and ending in Hokkaido. Highlights included 7 species of cranes (6 in one day!), hundreds of Steller's and White-tailed Eagles, and Blakiston's Fish-Owl. The Snow Monkeys (Japanese Macaque) in the pools are always fun, and of course the food and culture played a big part in making this a great trip. Birding in Japan in the winter can be challenging due to weather and this trip we had a couple of days that were a bit tough to bird, but thankfully we were able to deal with it and didn't have big impacts on the tour. We had a wonderful group of participants, which helped make this an amazing trip!

BIRDS 155 species were recorded. Details are included below.

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.

[Japan Birding & Nature | January 7-23, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

MAMMALS (6):

Squirrels: Sciuridae

Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* – This striking squirrel was happily loading up on seeds at the feeders at Yoroshi Onsen. We saw the unique Hokkaido subspecies

Deer: Cervidae

Sika Deer *Cervus nippon* – Common and seen daily on Hokkaido

Wolves, Foxes, & Jackals: Canidae

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes schrencki (Hokkaido ss)* – common and we saw one of two nearly every day. The best was the one on the fence at Kirritappu. Some of the guests watched it work its way down the nearly vertical cliff to the seashore.

Japanese Raccoon Dog *Nyctereutes viverrinus* One briefly ran across the road in Izumi near our hotel on the first night of the tour

Pinnipeds: Pinnipedia

Spotted Seal *Phoca largha* – A few seen from view points on the Nemuro Peninsula

Stellar's Sea Lion *Eumetopias jabatus* – A small group swam past as we were exploring the Shiretoko Peninsula near Rausu

Other

Jellyfish: Pelagiidae

Northern Sea Nettle *Chrysaora melanaster* – Beautiful jellyfish seen from shore in Akkeshi Bay