



Amami Robin (All pictures by D.Farrow unless otherwise indicated)

ULTIMATE JAPAN

21 MAY – 3/8 JUNE 2019

LEADER: DAVE FARROW

This year's tour of Japan was once again a real delight, a wonderful island-hopping extravaganza around the Japanese archipelago. In the mountain forests on the island of Honshu we saw Japanese Green Woodpecker, Japanese Accentor, Brown-headed and Japanese Thrushes, Siberian Blue Robin, Narcissus and Blue-and-white Flycatchers, Eastern Crowned and Japanese Leaf Warblers, Japanese Grosbeak, Chestnut-eared and Japanese Yellow Bunting, and two different daytime Ural Owls, while in lowlands and wetland areas we saw Japanese Reed Bunting, Marsh Grassbird, Japanese Green Pheasant, Japanese Wagtail and Chestnut-cheeked Starlings. On the delightful island of Miyakejima we saw Styan's Grasshopper Warblers, Ijima's Leaf Warbler, Izu Thrush and Owston's Tit, plus Izu Robins, Japanese Woodpigeon and Northern Boobook, and at sea we saw Bonin Petrel, Bulwer's Petrel and Black-footed

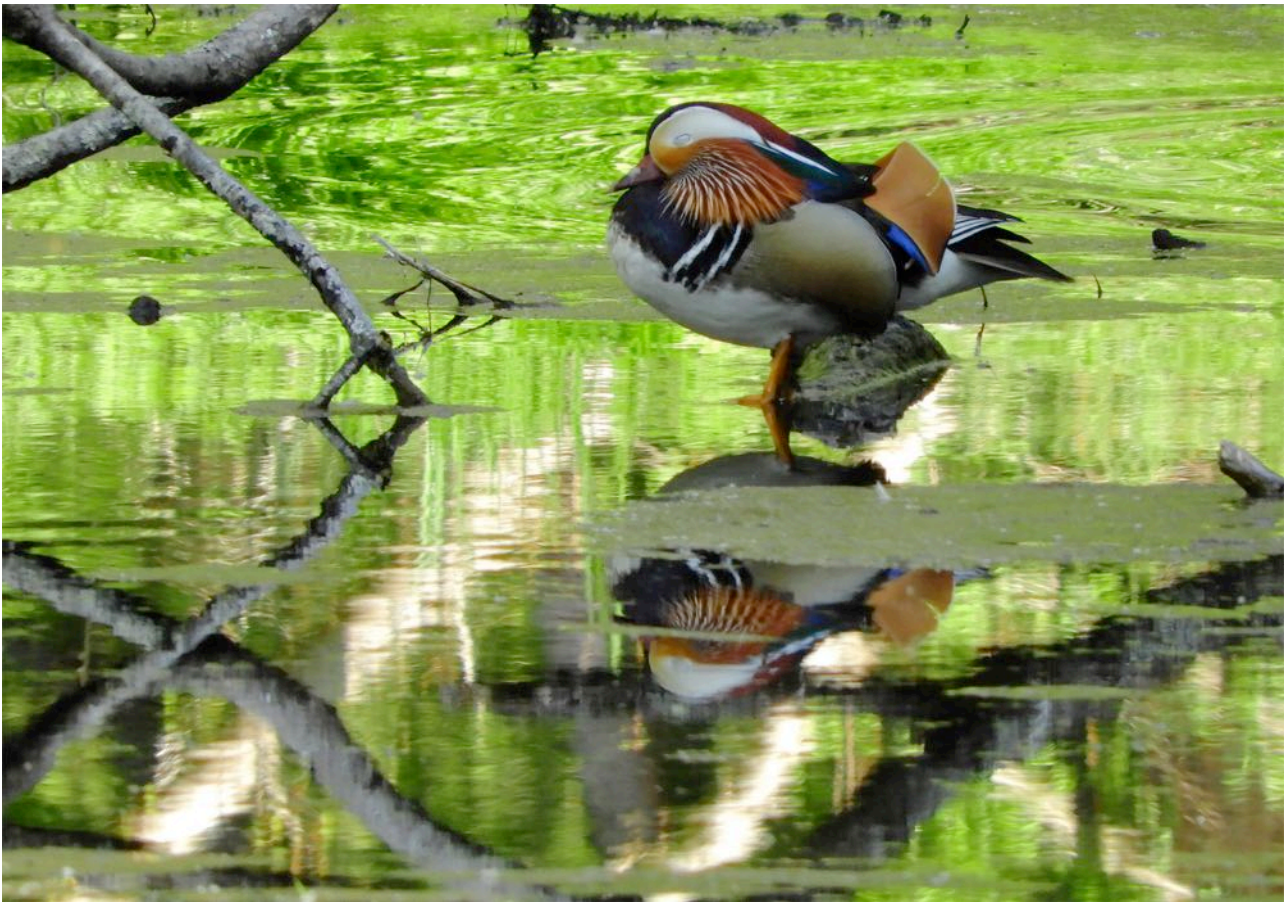
Albatross. Down in the subtropical Ryukyu Islands we found a suite of island endemics and other great birds, starting on Ishigakijima where we saw Ryukyu Serpent Eagle, Ryukyu Green Pigeon, Ryukyu Flycatcher, Ryukyu Scops Owls in the daytime, Ryukyu Minivets and Ishigaki Tit, plus Ruddy Kingfisher, Malayan Night Heron and Chinese Egrets. On Okinawa we found many Okinawa Rails scuttling along the roadsides, Okinawa Woodpeckers, lovely Okinawa Robins, Japanese Scops Owl, and some fine Black-naped and Roseate Terns. On Amami Island, despite continual rain we enjoyed Lidth's Jay, Owston's (or Amami) Woodpeckers and Amami Robin, with two exciting night drives produced a record count of 26 of the superb Amami Woodcock, an amazing Amami Thrush spotlighted at roost, and an Amami Black Rabbit. On our five day Hokkaido extension, we saw Red-faced Cormorants, Spectacled Guillemot, Rhinoceros Auklet, Ancient Murrelet, Red-crowned Cranes, White-tailed Eagles, Grey Bunting, White's Thrush, Sakhalin Leaf Warbler, Sakhalin and Middendorff's Grasshopper Warblers, Lanceolated Warbler, Siberian Rubythroat, and a selection of welcome European breeders such as Hazel Grouse, Black, Grey-headed and White-backed Woodpeckers, but the jewel in the crown was of course Blakiston's Fish Owl. In addition to the birds we saw a Brown Bear, Raccoon Dog and Dahl's Porpoise. Overall we recorded 200 species. The food, as always, was very enjoyable.



Narcissus Flycatcher

We assembled in the early morning at our Narita hotel, and once our minibus was acquired we set off to the Tonegawa reedbeds and rice fields a short journey along the highway. Unfortunately, we coincided with a particularly vicious typhoon that blew a gale and lashed us with rain – the absolute worst conditions for looking for birds in reedbeds! We tried to find some birds while sheltered in the lee of our bus, and were surprised to find a couple of Marsh Grassbirds that were launching themselves into the air on short song flights. All other passerines had their heads down, and we scanned around while sat in the bus, with a few Eastern Spot-billed Ducks, Intermediate Egrets in breeding plumage, a solitary Little Ringed Plover and a few windblown White-cheeked Starlings all appreciated, as was a male Green Pheasant that emerged onto short grass for a good view, crossing paths with a bedraggled Japanese Weasel that bounded past. The storm intensified and the rain was going sideways, to the point where it was just madness to continue so we retreated to our hotel, hoping the morning would be better.

Indeed the next day we woke to sunshine and blue skies, and duly headed back to the Tonegawa plain. We quickly found a very obliging Marsh Grassbird (surely there must be a better name for this character) that was launching itself into the air repeatedly to make advertising song-flights over the reeds. Oriental Reed Warblers abounded, sat high on reed stems in the breeze, plus there many Zitting Cisticolas of the distinct sounding *brunniceps* taxon, but we couldn't find any Buntings, the wind still too much for them perhaps. Time was running out, so at one last stop we walked along a high bank that offered some shelter to the reedbeds in its lee, and finally found two singing Japanese Reed Buntings sat up on the reeds, allowing us both relief and good views. We hurried away, with a long journey ahead, and cruised around Tokyo on a seemingly new expressway, reaching our destination of Karuizawa in the mountains of Nagano province in the mid afternoon. We headed straight out into the forest, and enjoyed a pleasant few hours in the sylvan greenery here, finding gorgeous Narcissus Flycatchers, Grey Wagtail, Coal and Willow Tit, Japanese Varied Tit, Japanese Green Woodpecker, Blue-and-White Flycatcher, Japanese Grosbeaks, a pair of Asian Stubtail, a male Siberian Blue Robin and furtive Ashy Minivets in the treetops.



Mandarin Duck

A pre-breakfast walk in some lush mixed forest produced smart Japanese Thrushes, with a pair observed nest-building. We also found more Ashy Minivets, Siberian Blue Robin, Japanese Bush Warbler, Eastern Crowned Warbler, Grey-capped Greenfinch, Meadow Bunting, a startlingly bright White-bellied Green Pigeon, Eurasian Jay of the *japonicus* race, a smart trio of Mandarin Ducks, Eastern Buzzard, Japanese Pygmy Woodpeckers, and a superb daytime Ural Owl that hooted at us. After some welcome breakfast we found our first Black-faced Bunting, and eventually tracked down the much-wanted Japanese Yellow Buntings in the riverside forests. We then drove high into the mountains where at a picnic site at 2000m we saw Brown-headed Thrush, a Red-flanked Bluetail, and heard Rufous Hawk Cuckoo. The hot midday period produced little more, so we headed downhill and finished our day around some very productive rough fields where we saw several Black-browed Reed Warblers singing alongside the Oriental Reed Warblers, some gorgeous Chestnut-eared Buntings, plus Black-faced Buntings, Stejneger's Stonechats and smart Chestnut-cheeked Starlings. We headed back for a splendid meal at our hotel deep in the woods.

An early walk near our hotel produced another calling Ural Owl, Blue-and-White and Narcissus Flycatchers, Eurasian Wren of the race *fumigatus*, Japanese Grosbeak, and Japanese Green Woodpecker. We checked out and headed south, stopping by the Chikuma River where we saw Japanese and Black-backed Wagtails, Little Ringed Plover and Asian House Martins, plus some urban Azure-winged Magpies. A fairly long drive took us to Mount Fuji, and driving up its slopes to the scrubby forest near the tree line we found Red-flanked Bluetails, Grey-bellied Bullfinch, Goldcrest and Coal Tits, but were unable to find our target of Japanese Accentor despite much searching. A late afternoon stop produced a nice Japanese Leaf Warbler, and another Brown-headed Thrush, before we headed to our night stop in Gotemba.

The next morning we went high up on the mountain before breakfast, finding Japanese Leaf Warbler, Olive-backed Pipits and a Japanese Green Pigeon, plus a Eurasian Treecreeper. Later we explored the south side, it was rather hot and quiet but the forests looked fantastic with a ground flora of peonies and other species, Brown-headed Thrush, Japanese Green Woodpecker, and Japanese Varied Tit. We tried the southern side to the treeline at 2400m where we found Red-flanked Bluetails hopping on snow patches, and then finally, just as we were about to give up we heard the call of Japanese Accentor, and found it sitting up in the stunted trees around the car park. A second bird appeared and we had a better look at this demure fellow, relief all round. Then we drove into downtown Tokyo, and after several traffic jams we dropped the car at the rental office, and walked to Takeshiba port to catch the night ferry out to the Izu Islands.



Styan's Grasshopper Warbler

Arriving early morning at Miyakejima, it was a short walk to our hotel where breakfast was ready, then we headed out in a bright orange minibus to find the special birds of the island. We quickly found Styan's Grasshopper Warbler, with several sitting up and singing in the coastal scrub. Next stop was the forests around the crater lake where we found a splendid Izu Robin (a sure split from Japanese Robin), Ijima's Leaf Warbler, Owston's Tit and eventually the shy Izu Thrush was persuaded to show itself. We also found some lovely Japanese Woodpigeons with their bizarre calls, a wide awake Northern Boobook, a migrant Chinese Pond Heron, Eastern Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Pacific Swift and a vocal Lesser Cuckoo, which left us wondering what we were going to see for the remainder of our stay on the island! After lunch we did a circumnavigation of the island, finding more Styan's Grasshopper Warbler, Izu Thrushes, a Pelagic

Cormorant, a Black-footed Albatross with the hordes of Streaked Shearwaters offshore, and a Grey-tailed Tattler on the rocks.

Another morning on Miyakejima, and we revisited the coastal scrub with its Styan's Grasshopper Warblers, and the woods around Tairo Ike where we one again enjoyed seeing Izu Robins, Owston's Tit, Ijima's Leaf Warbler, Izu Thrush and Japanese Woodpigeon. We added Striated Heron and a migrant Black-browed Reed Warbler, plus Meadow Buntings and Blue Rock Thrush. We left on the ferry after lunch, and settled in on deck for the voyage back to Tokyo. Streaked Shearwaters were abundant, and we had in-the-hand views of one that was picked up off the deck. The birding was rather skinny, with little else seen except for a single Bulwer's Petrel, until we entered the approaches of Tokyo Bay where we saw several Short-tailed Shearwaters and a Bonin Petrel that went speeding across the bows of the ship. We transferred to our hotel in Tokyo for a short night, before the next leg of our adventure.

A very early start for the first flight of the day out of Haneda, with the check-in not opening till 55 minutes before take off! No time wasted in Japan! A three-hour flight allowed some catching up on sleep, then we arrived in the subtropical heat of Ishigakijima. We cruised around the lanes of this lush island and found two Ryukyu Serpent Eagles perched up overlooking the fields, plus Purple Heron, many White-breasted Waterhens, Light-vented Bulbul, Pacific Swallow and the diminutive Ishigaki Crows in abundance. The rain came down heavily in the afternoon however a Ryukyu Green Pigeon was sat on a wire washing itself in the rain. After a break we headed out and found a Malayan Night Heron pulling worms from the sodden ground, jousting with a Crow that was trying to steal its food. We saw a couple of flyby Ruddy Kingfishers, and a calling Ryukyu Scops Owl was located at its roost, allowing us to enjoy him at our leisure.



Ural Owl

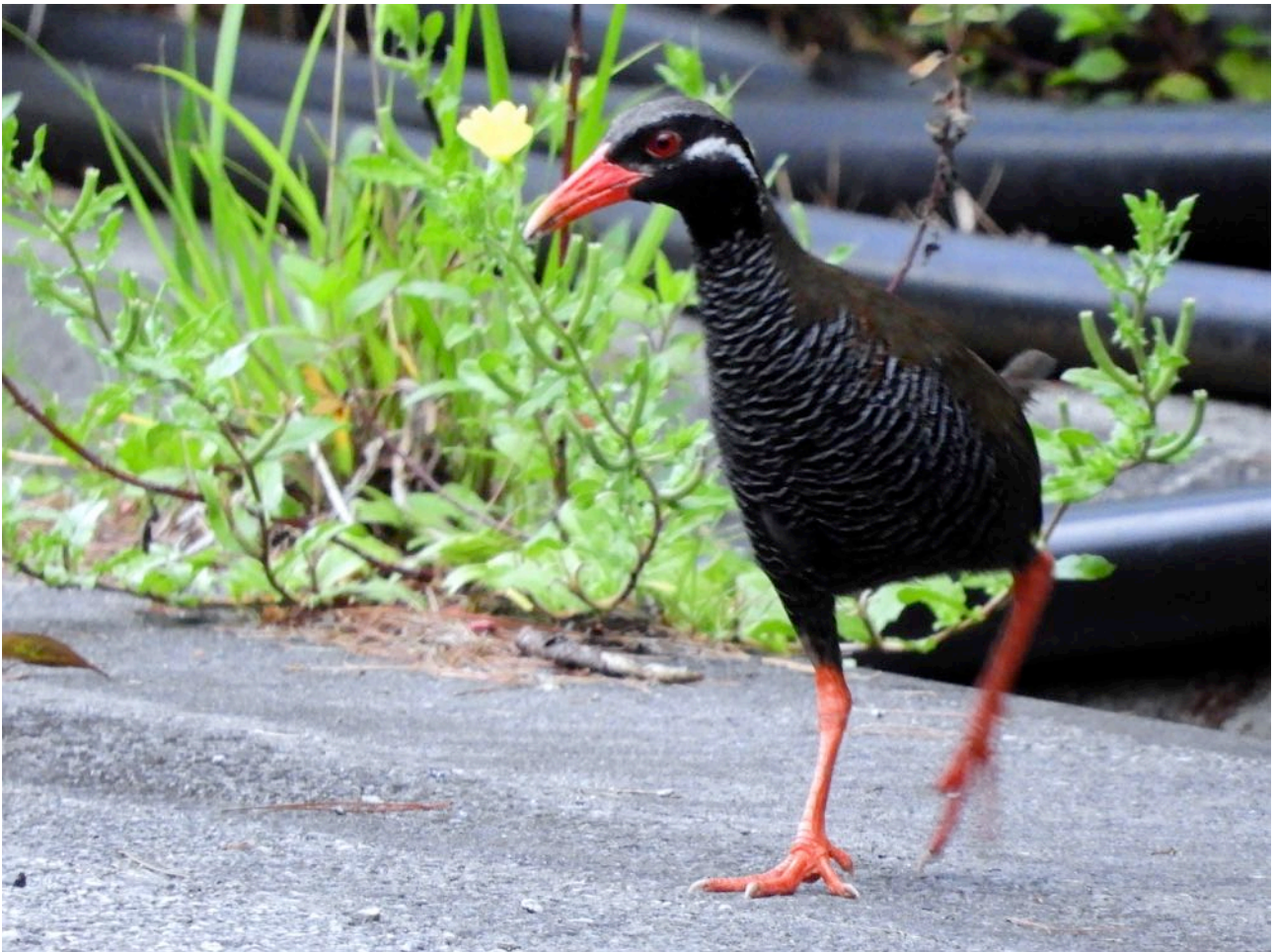


Ryukyu Scops Owl

A pre-breakfast excursion to Banna Park was rather gloomy due to the low clouds, with a Black-crowned Night Heron seen standing in the middle of the road on the way up. We saw Ryukyu Minivet and Ryukyu Green Pigeon, an Ishigaki Tit singing to us, and a fine male Ryukyu Flycatcher circling us. We went up the west side of the island, scanning the shorelines where found Chinese Egrets, plus Pacific Reef, Great, Intermediate, Little and Eastern Cattle Egrets for a binge on the Heron family. Also here was Greater Sand Plovers, Eurasian Whimbrels, Grey-tailed Tattlers, Little and Black-naped Tern. Further around the coast we found Greater Crested Terns and another Ishigaki Tit, then a walk in some lush jungle produced a female Japanese Paradise Flycatcher. The rain returned just in time for a lunch break, in the afternoon we had another visit to Banna Park, where we saw Ruddy Kingfisher, and re-found the same roosting Ryukyu Scops Owl but on a different perch. The insects here always draw the attention, and we saw spectacular butterflies and metallic beetles. A final stop at a beach gave us Mongolian Plovers, Red-necked Stint, Ruddy Turnstone, more Grey-tailed Tattlers, a White-winged Tern and a Western Osprey.

We left the fair island of Ishigakijima and took an early flight over the blue seas and coral reefs to Okinawa, and picking up another vehicle we sped along highways northwards to Yambaru, the forested area and National Park at the northern end of the island. Where the road followed the sea we had some great views of Roseate Terns and Black-naped Tern, then reaching the village of Ada we enjoyed a walk around the area,

finding a splendid male Okinawa Woodpecker continually calling from roadside trees. Apart from some Ryukyu Minivets there were few other birds on a hot afternoon, however after an excellent dinner we went out owling, and found a lovely rusty Japanese Scops Owl of the local *pryeri* race with its red eyes. At dawn we set off from our well-appointed hotel on a drive to look for Okinawa Rail, and almost immediately saw one scuttle across the road. We continued driving up and down, however it was some time before we saw another, and were beginning to wonder where they all were! We had some great views of a couple that were feeding along the roadsides, and even in the middle of the road which was a bit alarming given the speed and frequency of traffic moving. After some breakfast we went up into the hills and walked the forest lanes, seeing more Okinawa Woodpeckers, some fantastically obliging Okinawa Robins, Japanese White-eyes and Varied Tits, and two male Japanese Paradise Flycatchers that tried to play hide and seek with us. The forests really don't have many more species, and after some picnic lunch we checked some iris fields but little was stirring in the heat apart from some Light-vented Bulbuls. A late afternoon walk near to our hotel produced yet another Okinawa Woodpecker, and a vocal Ruddy Kingfisher that wouldn't show itself.



Okinawa Rail

Another early morning drive produced more Okinawa Rails along the roadside, perhaps encouraged by the overnight rain. More Okinawa Woodpeckers were seen, then it was time to head for the airport. After driving nearly the length of the island we took a lunchtime flight to Amami Oshima, the next main island northeastwards, and the venue for more endemic thrills. With typically Japanese brisk and efficient service we acquired another minibus, and headed off into the field. A scan over a nearby beach produced a lone Eurasian Spoonbill, plus Kentish Plovers, a Black-winged Stilt and Little Tern. Our first taste of Amami forests was a 'Forest Park' where we had stunning views of a male Amami Robin at close range, plus our first Lidth's Jay, Ryukyu Minivets, Japanese Tit, and along the road we saw a male Amami Woodpecker actually drumming on a metal telephone pole! We headed to town, and after some supper headed off into the night on a Woodcock hunt. Climbing up on forest roads towards the forested spine of the island, our first Amami Woodcock came quickly, sat in the road in front of the bus, blinking in the headlights. Further on we stopped at an area with lawns of short grass and were astonished to find at least 19 birds sat together! An

immediate record high count, we cruised around the lanes and before the night was out saw a *minimum* of 22 birds! We saw Ryukyu Scops Owl and a roosting Ryukyu Green Pigeon but no sign of Amami Black Rabbit, the persistent rain perhaps keeping them in cover.

The next morning the rain was emphatic, however it wasn't cold so we walked along forest tracks getting rather wet, glimpsing a couple of Amami Thrushes that retreated to the forest where their high pitched call could be heard (by some!). The rain kept the other birds in cover, but we managed glimpses of a couple of Lidth's Jays, plus we saw Ryukyu Minivets and Ryukyu Green Pigeons, the latter seeming to be more showy when it rains! In the afternoon we ventured out to the mountain forest at the far end of the island where in heavy rain we drove up and down the lanes, searching for Amami Thrushes, again getting poor views of Lidth's Jays and Ruddy Kingfisher, and saw pools full of Sword-tailed Newts. At dusk we moved to a different area for a second night-drive where we quickly found more Amami Woodcocks, and then our target of Amami Black Rabbit, an obliging individual that allowed us lengthy close views. Along the forest roads where the trees closed in above us, we found a roosting Lidth's Jay, and then a pale blob was sat on a branch over the road resolved itself as – Amami Thrush! A textbook view, and far better views than if we had found it in daytime! Another Woodcock gave us a good show as we headed down to the main road, completing a fantastic couple of Amami night-drives. The rain continued, a walk in the forest produced a brief view of another Amami Thrush and more views of Lidth's Jay, but it was just too wet and we headed for the airport and our afternoon flight to Haneda where we spent the night.



Amami Thrush (E.Paxton)

The next morning it was time to fly to Hokkaido for our tour extension, with a flight to Asahikawa in the centre of the island. Arriving to warm weather it seemed like our luck had changed, and stopping by a river we saw a couple of Chestnut-cheeked Starlings together with numerous White-cheeked Starlings. Adapting our plan when we found that desired mountain road was closed, we went exploring for an alternative. Unfortunately the rain followed us, but at the roadsides we found a White-backed Woodpecker taking food to a nest, and two Japanese Robins, some White-throated Needletails, Oriental Cuckoo and a Rufous-Hawk Cuckoo. Exploring a side track we had a stunning view of a Hazel Hen male that flew into a tree at close range, a

Grey Bunting that circled around us, and both Sakhalin Leaf and Sakhalin Grasshopper Warblers that gave us the run around.

The next day we headed off into the local forests, and had a few hours of good birding before the rain returned. A Sakhalin Leaf Warbler decided to play along and give us a nice view, plus Eastern Crowned Warbler, and a Sakhalin Grasshopper Warbler blasted out his loud song and also popped out into view as he circled us while hiding under the huge leaves of the Giant Butterbur. Woodpeckers featured with two Blacks, Grey-headed, Great Spotted Japanese Pygmy and White-backed, Crested Kingfisher gave us a flyby and Brown Dippers showed well. Bird of the morning was probably White-throated Needletails that gave a great show as they flew around low over the forest, while a Blue and White Flycatcher posed on a treetop. The afternoon was somewhat muted as we walked around in the rain, seeing Eurasian Nuthatch, Eurasian Treecreeper and another Sakhalin Leaf Warbler, and a night drive produced a surprise of four Raccoon Dogs, five Red Fox, roding Eurasian Woodcocks and a heard-only Grey Nightjar.



Hazel Grouse (E. Paxton)

The next morning the rain had stopped and we had a great morning in the verdant forests with a White's Thrush watched casually collecting worms on the road in front of us, a Rufous Hawk Cuckoo, glowing male Narcissus Flycatchers and a White-backed Woodpecker. We then had to move on, a cross-country route to the southeast that took us through farmland where we had some nice looks at Russet Sparrows and Stejneger's Stonechats, Common Cuckoo and Japanese Skylarks. Reaching the coast we paused to look at our first Slaty-backed Gulls and saw a Red-crowned Crane languidly flying past. Arriving at the wide expanse of the marshes at Kiritappu, around its margins we saw some gorgeous Long-tailed Rosefinches, Black-browed Reed Warbler and our first White-tailed Eagles flying low overhead. Further in we watched Lanceolated Warbler and Middendorf's Grasshopper Warbler from a boardwalk, our first Siberian Rubythroats popped onto their song perches, and Latham's Snipe whooshed overhead in their display flights. The harbour had both Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, and Slaty-backed Gull nests dotted the breakwater. Our hotel is perhaps the most elegant of the whole tour and the feast they served us was memorable!

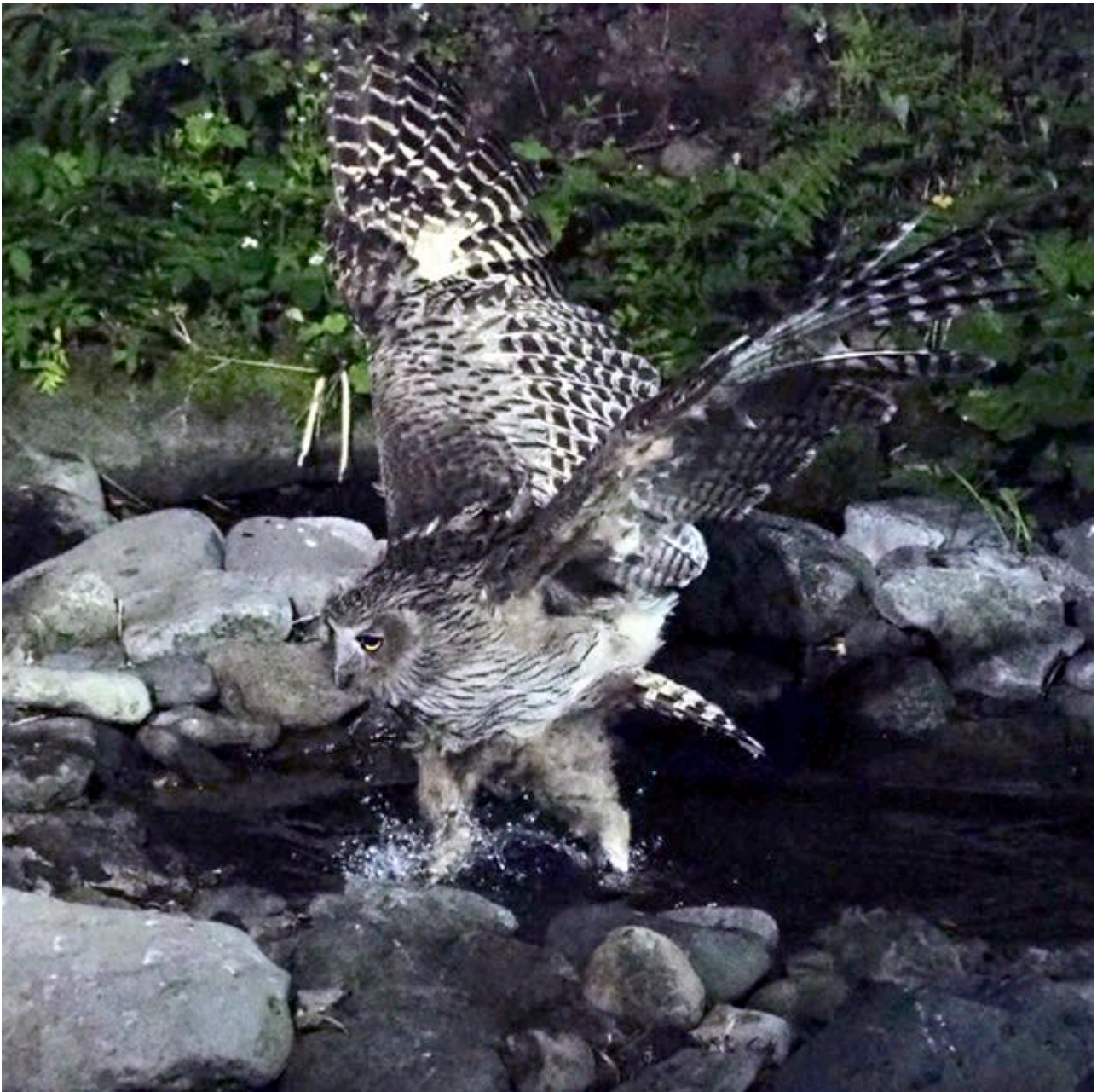
The next morning we were out early in the morning fog, and revisited the perky Lanceolated Warblers, Middendorf's Grasshopper Warbler showed well again, running along the boardwalk, plus Black-browed Reed Warblers, while up on a foggy headland we saw several Siberian Rubythroat sitting up on wires and other exposed perches, plus singing Common Reed Buntings, before it was time to tear ourselves away. After breakfast in our delightful hotel we had one more local stop where we watched Stejneger's Stonechats taking food to a nest, White-tailed Eagles at a nest with two well-grown young, and heard a Eurasian Wryneck. We sped up the coast to Ochiishi where donned our lifejackets and set off on a 'Nature Cruise' that took us out to some offshore islands. Spectacled Guillemots in breeding plumage were on offer inside the harbour, while Pacific Swifts raced up and down the breakwater over a colony of gulls, scooping up downy feathers blowing in the wind for their nest linings. Out on the water we saw more Spectacled Guillemots, Rhinoceros Auklets, a couple of Pacific Divers, and reaching the rocky islands we saw Pelagic and Japanese Cormorants, Harbour Seals and Sea Otters, an Ancient Murrelet, White-tailed Eagles and Peregrine on the tops of the cliffs, and for a last treat we were taken to the rock where there were sat three Red-faced Cormorants, their brightly-coloured facial skin obvious and clearly visible.



A seafood feast!

We headed back into port, and began driving north to our final night stop at Rausu. Inshore along the east coast we found Stejneger's Scoters, Black-throated Divers, more White-tailed Eagles, some distant Whooper Swans, and eventually we had some good close views of a pair of Red-crowned Cranes, casually feeding close to a human habitation. Onwards to Rausu for our appointment with the Blakiston's Fish Owl, we settled into the 'Owl minshuku', and at dusk (and after another great dinner) we took up positions looking out onto the river in front of our rooms. It wasn't a short wait, but down it came to the stream at 2230hrs, caught some fish from the pond and thrilled us all. Apparently it came four times through the night, but most of us were sleeping comfortably!

A brief foray before breakfast was successful in finding Dall's Porpoise offshore, with a single Red-rumped Swallow and hordes of screaming Pacific Swifts overhead. Moving on, we drove up to the high pass of Shiretoko. Despite the good conditions and panoramic views, the birding was slow, and the pass was attended by a gathering of weekend photographers waiting for a Pine Grosbeak to appear (it never did!) Walking along the road, a shape was seen crashing through the bushes above the road, so hoping for some ursine shenanigans, we ran towards it. Sure enough, the head of a Brown Bear popped out peering at us briefly before it went crashing back up the hill, where it paused to look at us once more before retreating to the dense wood. Hurrah! A lifer for the leader!



Blakiston's Fish Owl (Marshall Dahl)

We carried on down the road, not finding very much, before it was time to leave this spectacular area. We had our picnic overlooking Utoro harbour, surrounded by Large-billed Crows and Slaty-backed Gulls, while in the bay we saw Spectacled Guillemot and an adult Glaucous-winged Gull. Then we had a long drive cross-country to the Kushiro area, and a last half an hour of birding in some nice forest produced a pair of Japanese Thrush, Hawfinch, Japanese Pygmy, White-backed and Grey-headed Woodpeckers.

Then it was time to end our wonderful odyssey through the Japanese archipelago, and check in for our flights to Tokyo at the airport. It had been a great journey, beset at times by a lot of rain, fuelled by rice, fish, and legurar 'hotto coffee', I cannot wait to return.



Amami Woodcock (E. Paxton)



Rainforest on Amami Oshima



Red-crowned Crane

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

- Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* A couple of distant birds at Notsuke on Hokkaido.
- Mandarin Duck** ◊ *Aix galericulata* Some lovely examples at Karuizawa, also seen at Oketo.
- Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata* A few seen near Odaito on Hokkaido's east coast.
- Gadwall** *Mareca strepera* A pair near Kiritappu.
- Falcated Duck** ◊ *Mareca falcata* Several seen near Odaito on Hokkaido's east coast.
- Eurasian Wigeon** *Mareca penelope* A couple of dozen seen on Hokkaido.
- Eastern Spot-billed Duck** *Anas zonorhyncha* Frequent sightings on Honshu, also on Ishigakijima.
- Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* A single at Karuizawa, more seen on Hokkaido.
- Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta* A single at Omigawa, quite a number seen on Hokkaido.
- Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca* A pair seen near Odaito on Hokkaido's east coast.
- Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* Seen in a couple of places in eastern Hokkaido.
- Greater Scaup** *Aythya marila* Quite a few still lingering inshore on the coast of Hokkaido.
- Harlequin Duck** ◊ *Histrionicus histrionicus* At least six around the rocky islands off Ochiishi.
- Stejneger's Scoter** ◊ *Melanitta [deglandi] stejnegeri* Some small flocks seen along the east coast of Hokkaido.
- Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser* Some nice examples around Kiritappu and on the Hokkaido coast.
- Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator* A small flock in the harbour at Kiritappu.
- Hazel Grouse** ◊ *Tetrastes bonasia* A stunning view of a male on Hokkaido. Others heard.
- Chinese Bamboo Partridge (introduced)** *Bambusicola thoracicus* (H) Heard at Narita and on Miyakejima.

Common Pheasant (introduced) *Phasianus colchicus* Not uncommon on Ishigakijima.

Green Pheasant ♦ *Phasianus versicolor* Seen well in the rain at Omigawa, also plenty near Karuizawa.

Indian Peafowl (introduced) *Pavo cristatus* Lurking around on Ishigakijima.

Black-throated Loon ♦ *Gavia arctica* Four seen along the Hokkaido coast, one in breeding dress.

Pacific Loon ♦ *Gavia pacifica* Two from our Ochiishi boat, four seen from Rausu.

Black-footed Albatross ♦ *Phoebastria nigripes* Singles from Miyakejima and from the ferry.

Bonin Petrel *Pterodroma hypoleuca* At least one seen from the Izu ferry.

Streaked Shearwater ♦ *Calonectris leucomelas* Thousands seen over the seas around Miyakejima, one on board.

Short-tailed Shearwater ♦ *Ardenna tenuirostris* Several seen as we got into Tokyo Bay on the Izu ferry.

Bulwer's Petrel ♦ *Bulweria bulwerii* At least one, maybe more, seen on the ferry from Miyakejima.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Singles at Omigawa and Kiritappu.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* A confiding bird at Oze beach on Amami island.

Malayan Night Heron ♦ *Gorsachius melanolophus* A splendid bird seen close up on Ishigaki. Two more seen there.



Malayan Night Heron



Eurasian Spoonbill

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Seen at Omigawa, also on Miyake and Ishigaki.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* One seen on the crater lake on Miyakejima.

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* A single in breeding plumage on Miyakejima.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* A small flock on Ishigakijima, a single at Ada.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Frequently encountered.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Odd singles seen on Ishigakijima.

Eastern Great Egret *Ardea [alba] modesta* Frequently seen, good numbers on Ishigakijima.

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* A few in breeding plumage at Omigawa, Ishigaki and Okinawa.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* A few scattered sightings.

Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra* Singles on Amami and Okinawa, more of both colour morphs on Ishigakijima.

Chinese Egret ♦ *Egretta eulophotes* At least six seen on the beaches of Ishigakijima.

Pelagic Cormorant ♦ *Phalacrocorax pelagicus* Seen in number on Hokkaido, a couple of singles on Miyake.

Red-faced Cormorant ♦ *Phalacrocorax urile* Great to see these on our Ochiishi boat trip. See note.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* Regular sightings on Honshu.

Japanese Cormorant ♦ *Phalacrocorax capillatus* Plenty seen well on Hokkaido, a single on Miyakejima.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* A couple on Ishigakijima, one seen well carrying a fish.

Ryukyu Serpent Eagle ♦ *Spilornis [cheela] perplexus* An adult and a juvenile seen well on Ishigakijima.

Japanese Sparrowhawk ♦ *Accipiter gularis* A single seen in flight on Ishigakijima, also heard in the forests.

Black-eared Kite *Milvus [migrans] lineatus* Seen at various points on Honshu, more frequent on Hokkaido.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* Multiple good views and many seen along the Hokkaido coast.

Eastern Buzzard ♦ *Buteo japonicus* One at Karuizawa, four on Hokkaido.

Okinawa Rail ♦ *Gallirallus okinawae* Great to see these jay-walking at Ada. See note.

Brown-cheeked Rail ♦ *Rallus indicus* A single bird seen flying over the reedbed at Omigawa.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* Common on Ishigakijima, with frequent sightings.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Odd birds seen on Okinawa.

Red-crowned Crane ♦ *Grus japonensis* Great views of a pair at Notsuke, others seen more distantly. See note.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Two near Okinawa airport, a single on Oze beach on Amami.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* Seen at Omigawa and on the Chikuma river near Karuizawa.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* Three seen at Oze beach on Amami island.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius [mongolus] mongolus* Good examples at Ohama beach on Ishigakijima.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* A few seen on the mudflats at Nagura on Ishigakijima.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* A few seen on the beaches on Ishigakijima.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Six or more seen on Ohama beach on Ishigakijima.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* A single on Ohama beach on Ishigakijima.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* Roding birds at Oketo and Rausu, a couple flushed from the forests also.

Amami Woodcock ♦ *Scolopax mira* A record high count. See note.

Latham's Snipe ♦ *Gallinago hardwickii* Good aerial displays and close views on roadside poles on Hokkaido.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Seen on beaches on Ishigakijima on rivers on Hokkaido.

Grey-tailed Tattler ♦ *Tringa brevipes* Not uncommon on Ishigakijima, singles on Miyakejima and Amami.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* A single seen on Ishigakijima.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* At least four at Nagura on Ishigakijima.

Black-tailed Gull ♦ *Larus crassirostris* A few seen on Miyakejima, more common around the Hokkaido coasts.

Glaucous-winged Gull ♦ *Larus glaucescens* A single adult seen at Utoro on Hokkaido.

Slaty-backed Gull ♦ *Larus schistisagus* Abundant on the Hokkaido coasts.

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* A dozen seen around the fish farm on Ishigakijima.

Little Tern *Sternula [albifrons] sinensis* A small number seen on the Ryukyu islands.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* Some nice views of close birds along the Okinawa coast.

Black-naped Tern ♦ *Sterna sumatrana* Some distant birds on Ishigakijima, then close birds on Okinawa showed well.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* A single in non-breeding plumage seen at Ohama beach, Ishigakijima.



Spectacled Guillemot



Ancient Murrelet (E.Paxton)

Spectacled Guillemot ♦ *Cephus carbo* Many seen close up on our Ochiishi boat trip, also from shore at Utoro.

Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* One seen from the Ochiishi boat was a write-in.

Rhinoceros Auklet ♦ *Cerorhinca monocerata* Plenty seen on our Ochiishi boat trip, also from Rausu.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* Hmmph.

Japanese Wood Pigeon ♦ *Columba janthina* Several good looks at these on Miyakejima, with eerie calls.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* Frequent seen, recorded on every day bar one.

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* A few flybys on Ishigakijima.

White-bellied Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron sieboldii* Some excellent views of these on Mt Fuji and at Karuizawa.

Ryukyu Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron [formosae] permagnus* Seen well and frequently on Amami, also on Okinawa.

Rufous Hawk-Cuckoo ♦ *Hierococyx hyperythrus* Heard on Honshu, good looks eventually on Hokkaido.

Lesser Cuckoo ♦ *Cuculus poliocephalus* A good look at a flying bird on Miyakejima.

Oriental Cuckoo ♦ *Cuculus optatus* Several seen around Shiretoko, also heard on Mt Fuji.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Good looks at singing birds on Hokkaido.

Japanese Scops Owl ♦ (Pryer's S O) *Otus [semitorques] pryeri* Nice views of this orange-eyed fellow at Ada.

Ryukyu Scops Owl ♦ *Otus elegans* One found at roost on Ishigaki on two days, one seen on Amami.

Blakiston's Fish Owl ♦ *Bubo blakistoni* Bird-of-the-trip following our visit to Rausu! See note.

Ural Owl *Strix uralensis* Two individuals seen very well at Karuizawa in daytime.

Northern Boobook ◇ *Ninox japonica* One on Miyakejima showed well, on Ishigaki it was glimpsed. See note.

Grey Nightjar ◇ *Caprimulgus jotaka* (H) One heard at Lake Oketo.

White-throated Needletail ◇ *Hirundapus caudacutus* Some great encounters in the forests of Oketo, A favourite.

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* A few seen on Miyake, good numbers on Hokkaido allowing close study.

Ruddy Kingfisher ◇ *Halcyon coromanda* Frequently heard in the islands, several flybys, a better view on Ishigaki.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* A couple seen at Omigawa.

Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris* Two or more seen in the Oketo forests, always furtive.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (H) One heard calling at Kiritappu.

Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker ◇ *Yungipicus kizuki* Frequent sightings except on Ishigakijima. See note.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* A few singles seen at Karuizawa and Oketo.



Okinawa Woodpecker



Owston's Woodpecker

Okinawa Woodpecker ◇ (Pryer's W) *Dendrocopos noguchii* A surprising number of sightings given its rarity!

White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos* A male visiting a nest plus others seen on Hokkaido.

Owston's Woodpecker ◇ *Dendrocopos [leucotos] owstoni* Several good views on Amami, incl. a metal drummer!

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* At least three seen in the Oketo forests.

Japanese Green Woodpecker ◇ *Picus awokera* Good views of this endemic at Karuizawa and Mt Fuji.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* Some nice looks at vocal birds in the Hokkaido forests.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* One vocal bird seen on the island on our Ochiishi boat trip.

Ashy Minivet ◇ *Pericrocotus divaricatus* Not uncommon at Karuizawa but habitually staying high up and hidden.

Ryukyu Minivet ◇ *Pericrocotus tegimae* More obliging than the previous species, seen on all the Ryukyu islands.

Bull-headed Shrike ◇ *Lanius bucephalus* Regular sightings on Hokkaido, also a few on Honshu and Miyakejima.

Japanese Paradise Flycatcher ◇ *Terpsiphone atrocaudata* Always furtive, but two males seen on Okinawa.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* Two at Karuizawa (japonicus) and several on Hokkaido (brandtii).

Lidth's Jay ◇ *Garrulus lidthi* Typically shy and staying out of reach, but one was seen at roost by spotlight.

Azure-winged Magpie ◇ *Cyanopica cyanus* Four seen in some random town near Karuizawa.

Oriental Crow ◇ *Corvus [corone] orientalis* Seen regularly on Honshu and frequently on Hokkaido.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* Seen throughout, except on Ishigaki.

Ishigaki Crow ◇ *Corvus [macrorhynchos] osai* The small crows on Ishigaki that dominate the island.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater* Fairly common in the Honshu forests, a few on Hokkaido.

Varied Tit ◇ *Sittiparus varius* Nice views at Karuizawa, Mt Fuji and on Okinawa.

Owston's Tit ◇ (Izu T) *Sittiparus owstoni* Several on Miyakejima, eventually seen very well.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris* A few vocal birds seen on Hokkaido.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus* Not uncommon in the Honshu forests.

Japanese Tit *Parus minor* Seen throughout except for on Ishigaki, commonest at Karuizawa.

Ishigaki Tit ◇ *Parus [minor] nigriloris* Two seen well in the woods on Ishigaki, a distinctive bird.

Japanese Skylark ◇ *Alauda [arvensis] japonica* Seen locally on Honshu and also on Hokkaido.

Light-vented Bulbul ◇ (Chinese B) *Pycnonotus sinensis* A few seen on both Ishigaki and Okinawa.

Brown-eared Bulbul ◇ *Hypsipetes amaurotis* Seen throughout, though just a couple on Hokkaido. See note.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* Some on Ishigaki, many on the Hokkaido coastal areas.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Seen regularly on Honshu and Miyakejima.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* Seen throughout the southern islands, the Japanese name is 'Ryukyu Swallow'.

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* Seen in number around Lake Oketo, also at a bridge near Karuizawa.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* Singles seen at Ada and Rausu.

Japanese Bush Warbler ◇ *Horornis diphone* Heard commonly with odd ones seen.

Asian Stubtail ◇ *Urosphena squameiceps* Two behaving in a Wren-like fashion at Karuizawa.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* A few at Karuizawa, a couple on Hokkaido.



Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler



Black-browed Reed Warbler



Marsh Grassbird



Lanceolated Warbler

Eastern Crowned Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus coronatus* Seen well at Karuizawa and on Hokkaido where commoner.

Ijima's Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus ijimae* Several seen and many heard on Miyakejima.

Sakhalin Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus borealoides* Not uncommon in the Hokkaido forests, just a pain to see!

Japanese Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus xanthodryas* Some good examples seen on Mt Fuji.

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* Obvious at Omigawa and a couple of places near Karuizawa.

Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* Seen well at Hoshi and on Hokkaido.

Sakhalin Grasshopper Warbler ◇ *Helopsaltes amnicola* One seen close up at Oketo, the song is deafening.

Marsh Grassbird ◇ *Helopsaltes pryori* Some good looks at repeatedly song-fighting birds at Omigawa.

Styan's Grasshopper Warbler ◇ *Helopsaltes pleskei* Great close views of multiple birds on Miyakejima.

Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler ◇ *Helopsaltes ochotensis* At Kiritappu, showing very well eventually.

Lanceolated Warbler ◇ *Locustella lanceolata* Singing birds showed well sitting on bushlets at Kiritappu.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* Good numbers at Omigawa, also found on Ishigaki and Okinawa. See note.

Chinese Hwamei (introduced) *Garrulax canorus* (H) Heard at Hoshi.

Japanese White-eye ◇ *Zosterops japonicus* Seen on Honshu, Miyakejima and the Ryukyu Islands. See note.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* Seen well at Mt Fuji, also on Hokkaido.

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* Seen and often heard at Karuizawa, a single at Oketo.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* A few seen in the Honshu forests, also on Hokkaido. See Note.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* Seen well on Mt Fuji, another on Hokkaido.

White-cheeked Starling ◇ *Spodiopsar cineraceus* Regularly seen in open country on Honshu, also Hokkaido.
Chestnut-cheeked Starling ◇ *Agropsar philippensis* Seen at Hoshi, also near Asahikawa on Hokkaido.
White's Thrush ◇ *Zoothera aurea* A bird watched at leisure feeding along the track at Oketo. Also heard singing.
Amami Thrush ◇ *Zoothera major* After a couple of flight views, one found at roost on a night-drive was just stunning!
Japanese Thrush ◇ *Turdus cardis* A pair nest-building at Karuizawa, another pair seen near Kushiro airport.
Brown-headed Thrush ◇ *Turdus chrysolaus* A few seen, near Karuizawa, on Mt Fuji and in the Oketo forests.
Izu Thrush ◇ *Turdus celaenops* Several seen well, although it is the most secretive of the Miyakejima birds.
Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* A few seen in the Honshu and Hokkaido forests.
Blue-and-white Flycatcher ◇ *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* A few seen well, on Honshu and Hokkaido.
Siberian Blue Robin *Larvivora cyane* A couple seen at Karuizawa, also at Oketo. More often heard.
Amami Robin ◇ *Larvivora [komadori] komadori* Stunning views on our first afternoon on Amami.
Okinawa Robin ◇ *Larvivora [komadori] namiyei* Easier than the above, we had multiple sightings on Okinawa.
Japanese Robin ◇ *Larvivora [akahige] akahige* Common by voice on Hokkaido, a few seen but furtive.
Izu Robin ◇ *Larvivora [akahige] tanensis* Excellent close views on Miyakejima. See note.
Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope* Several males plus one female seen around Kiritappu.
Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* A few at higher elevations near Karuizawa, numerous by voice on Mt Fuji.
Narcissus Flycatcher ◇ *Ficedula narcissina* A stunning bird, not uncommon at Karuizawa and on Hokkaido.
Ryukyu Flycatcher ◇ *Ficedula [narcissina] owstoni* Seen on Ishigaki, posed well in the rain on Amami.
Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola [solitarius] philippensis* Commonest on Amami, also seen on the other islands.
Stejneger's Stonechat ◇ *Saxicola stejnegeri* Common on Hokkaido, also seen at Hoshi.



Ryukyu Flycatcher



Stejneger's Stonechat

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* First seen at Karuizawa, then several showed nicely on Hokkaido.
Russet Sparrow *Passer cinnamomeus* Locally quite common in farmland on Hokkaido.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Seen throughout, the urban Sparrow in Japan.
Japanese Accentor ◇ *Prunella rubida* After much searching, two found on Mt Fuji at the eleventh hour. Phew!
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Seen regularly along forest rivers on Honshu and Hokkaido.
Black-backed Wagtail ◇ *Motacilla [alba] lugens* Commonest on Hokkaido, a few seen on Honshu.
Japanese Wagtail ◇ *Motacilla grandis* Only seen around the Chikuma river near Karuizawa.
Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* Nice looks at songsters at higher elevations on Mt Fuji and on Hokkaido.
Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Seen fairly often on Hokkaido.
Japanese Grosbeak ◇ *Eophona personata* Some seen at Karuizawa but never showing well.
Grey-bellied Bullfinch ◇ *Pyrrhula [pyrrhula] griseiventris* A male seen on Mt Fuji.
Long-tailed Rosefinch ◇ *Carpodacus sibiricus* At least four at Kiritappu looking gorgeous, another at Ochiishi.
Grey-capped Greenfinch *Chloris sinica* Often encountered on Honshu, Miyakejima and Hokkaido.
Meadow Bunting ◇ *Emberiza cioides* A few seen along the way on Honshu, Miyakejima and Hokkaido.
Chestnut-eared Bunting ◇ *Emberiza fucata* Some lovely singing males at Hoshi, one other seen on Hokkaido.
Yellow Bunting ◇ *Emberiza sulphurata* A couple of these seen in the woods at Karuizawa.
Black-faced Bunting ◇ (Masked B) *Emberiza [spodocephala] personata* Common in the Hokkaido woods.
Grey Bunting ◇ *Emberiza variabilis* Always furtive, one circled us on Hokkaido giving jigsaw views.

Japanese Reed Bunting ◇ *Emberiza yessoensis* Two seen well on our second attempt at Omigawa!
Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* In good number around Kiritappu.



Common Reed Bunting



Chestnut-eared Bunting

MAMMALS

Amami Rabbit *Pentalagus furnessi* It took two night-drives but we saw one very well!
Japanese Squirrel *Sciurus lis* A couple seen at Karuizawa.
Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* Two seen at Oketo on Hokkaido.
Raccoon Dog *Nyctereutes procyonoides* A remarkable four seen at dusk along the road to Oketo dam.
Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* Commonly encountered on Hokkaido.
Brown Bear *Ursus arctos* Hurrah! A lifer for the leader. A good if brief view at Shiretoko.
Sea Otter *Enhydra lutris* Four seen around the islands off Ochiishi.
Japanese Weasel *Mustela itatsi* One seen in the rain at Omigawa.
Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina* 17 laid up on the rocks off Ochiishi.
Dall's Porpoise *Phocoenoides dalli* At least 8 seen 'speed porpoising' off Rausu.
Sika Deer *Cervus nippon* Seen on Mt Fuji, then commonly on Hokkaido.



Amami Rabbit (E. Paxton)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Red-faced Cormorant ◇ *Phalacrocorax urile* The first time I have seen these on the spring tour, usually we see one or two colourless individuals on the winter tour. Here it is at the edge of its range that extends around the north Pacific.

Okinawa Rail ◇ *Gallirallus okinawae* An extraordinary bird, it seems hard to comprehend that its existence was not confirmed until 1978! On our first morning at least six were seen, on our second morning we recorded eight between us. We had a very different experience to my previous visit which was in December, when none were seen despite much searching.

Red-crowned Crane ◇ *Grus japonensis* Great close views of a pair at Notsuke, though it wasn't easy to find any in the areas we visited! A symbol of long life and happiness in Japan, with a population on Hokkaido of 1500.

Amami Woodcock ◇ *Scolopax mira* One of the big highlights on this tour is the Amami Woodcock hunt, and one that we completed with flair. Visiting a new site, we were shocked to find 19 stood together on a rain-drenched patch of short grass! With others seen on the forest lanes we saw an absolute minimum of 26 over two nights. Listed as **Vulnerable** by BirdLife International, the world population is estimated at between 2,500 and 9,999. A key threats seems to be predation from introduced predators, most notably the Javan Mongoose that was introduced for snake control, however recent reports suggest that Mongooses have been significantly depleted. Time to start work on the feral cats!

Japanese Scops Owl ◇ *Otus semitorques* A good view of this rusty fellow on Okinawa. The Okinawa race *pryeri* differs slightly from the mainland form in having unfeathered tarsi, and is sometimes proposed as split from the mainland *semitorques*, with the name Pryer's Scops Owl applied.

Blakiston's Fish Owl ◇ *Bubo blakistoni* The Owl took its time to appear, but then it appeared at 2230hrs. It allegedly came four times during the night, with a confirmed visit at 0238 when it was calling just above the lodge before swooping down to catch a fish.

Northern Boobook ◇ *Ninox japonica* On Miyakejima they should be migrant *japonica*, on Ishigaki they are the resident race *totogo* that also occurs on Taiwan.

Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker ◇ *Yungipicus kizuki* Different subspecies seen were *seebohmi* on Hokkaido, *nippon* on Honshu, *amamii* on Amami, *nigrescens* on Okinawa..

Brown-eared Bulbul ◇ *Hypsipetes amaurotis* Several different subspecies seen, such as *stejnegeri* on Ishigaki, *pryeri* on Okinawa, *ogawae* on Amami and *matchiae* on Miyakejima.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* The subspecies *brunniceps* that occurs throughout Japan has significantly different song to the western populations, however we noticed variation between different parts of Japan.

Japanese White-Eye ◇ *Zosterops japonicus* With taxonomic revision of the White-eyes, *Z. japonicus* is now called Warbling White-eye. On Miyakejima the subspecies is *stejnegeri*, and on the Ryukyu Islands where the subspecies is *loochooensis*.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* On Honshu the subspecies is *amurensis* or *hondoensis*, depending on what you read (!), on Hokkaido it is *clara*.

Izu Robin ◇ *Larvivora [akahige] tanensis* Excellent views on Miyakejima, normally lumped with Japanese Robin but Brazil splits it as Izu Robin *L. tanensis*. It is resident unlike the nominate, and has plumage differences.

Amami Rabbit *Pentalagus furnessi*

A good number of these seen on our night drive on Amami. A fascinating species, with shorter ears and legs quite unlike 'conventional' rabbits and hares. Endemic to just two islands; Amami Oshima and Toku-no-Shima. A relict of a lineage of Asian rabbits that have died-out elsewhere.



Brown Bear (Marshall Dahl)



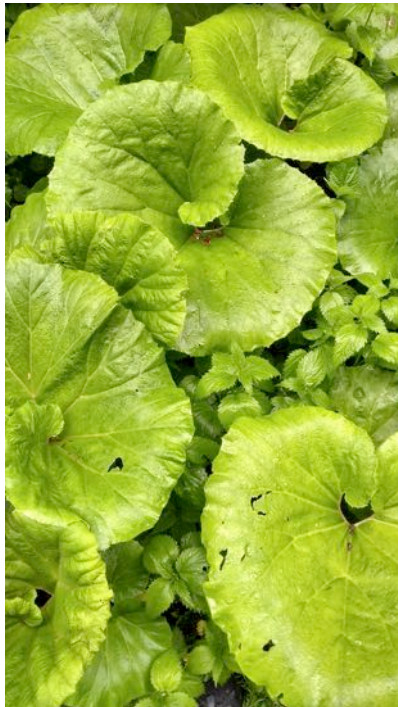
Izu Robin



Light-vented Bulbul



Dactylorhiza aristata



Giant Butterbur



Mt Fuji



Japanese Tiger Beetle, Okinawa



Hawk moth sp., Hokkaido