

## **JAPAN (ALMOST..) THE LAST STRAW?**

*This is a small report from a special trip in 2010 to see three (of four wanted) missing species in Japan together with some birding to see species which I did not see often.*



*Japanese Murrelet, the only I saw but within the minute of arriving at Kadogawa*

### **Itinerary**

- 26-02 Departed from Amsterdam to Tokyo.
- 27-02 Arrived at Narita airport where Tom Kompier picked me up. Drove to Yokohama, Maioka-koen Park, to “twitch” a wintering Solitary Snipe which I found on the net in January. After that drove to the mountains to a place called Stained Glass to be in time for the feeders hanging outside in the morning.
- 28-02 Birded around the feeders at the Stained Glass, later on tried for Copper Pheasant with no luck near the house. Around noon drove to Karuizawa and birded around the main stream in the late afternoon.
- 01-03 Birded at Karuizawa and after finding the pheasant drove to Tomonegawa for some late afternoon birding, later on drove to Tokyo and slept at Tom’s place.
- 02-03 Birded from early morning at Choshi for gulls and drove to Tokio via Inbanuma around noon. In the afternoon Tom had to work so I visited Oueno park in Tokyo.
- 03-03 Flew to Miyazaki in the early morning and drove (by myself) to Kadogawa Harbour for the Murrelet (found in one minute!), looked prolonged at the birds and drove back and spend the night at Miyazaki, having a Japanese stile bath and drink.
- 04-03 Drove in the early morning via Ebino to Arasaki and birded there until 15.00 hours (at first the weather was very bad), later on drove to Miike and spend the night at the for me known Minshuku.
- 05-03 Birded at Miike in the morning and by midday drove back to Miyazaki where I birded near the harbor to kill some time later on I took the plane back to Tokyo in the evening and slept at Tom’s place
- 06-03 Early morning birding at San Banse and later on Choshi (Tom love’s gulls..) and drove back to Tokyo late afternoon to go on the ferry to Hachijyo Jima

07-03 Birding from the ferry on the way up and back to Tokyo in very ruff weather and sea (7+ meter waves).

08-03 Flew back to Amsterdam

**Legenda:**

**\*AAAA** = New (Holarctic) Species (3)

**AAAA** = Good bird species

**The Bird list**

**001 CHINESE BAMBOO PARTRIDGE – bambusicola thoracicus**

Heard at Honschu several times, two seen flying over the road at Kyushu driving to Arasaki. This is most likely an introduced species.

**\*002 COPPER PHEASANT – SYRMATICUS SOEMMERINGII ssp: *scintillans***

01-03 2 birds, a pair at Karuizawa great views, feeding and even walking along with us (mainly the female proved to be very confident). The female called and the male responded by wing flapping. Some tail feathers of the male where damaged. The best view of the male was standing and looking down at us from the hillside, what a bird after so many misses



*The pair of these masters of the Japanese forest, the female is taken without a scope..*

**003 BLACK BRENT – *branta nigrigans***

06-03 1 immature, seen very close a shore at San Banse, not easy in Japan.

**004 COMMON SHELDUCK – *tadorna tadorna***

A total of 7 birds at Arasaki at the feeding station of the cranes.

**005 MANDERIN DUCK – *aix galericulata***

04-03 70 birds in one flock at a little pond along the 447 just outside Okuchi.



*A nice wintering flock*

**006 GADWALL – *anas strepera***

A total of 6 birds seen on Honshu and Kyushu.

**007 FALCATED DUCK – *anas falcata***

02-03 10 ex at Inbanuma

04-03 2 ex. a pair in the river at Arasaki.

**008 EURASIAN WIGEON – *anas Penelope***

Common on both islands in large wintering flocks but also in small city parks like Oueno.

**---- EURASIAN WIGEON X AMERICAN WIGEON – *anas penelope x americana***

06-03 1 male in a flock of Wigeon along the way from San Banse. The bird showed intermediate characters.

**009 MALLARD – *anas platyrhynchos***

Common at most suitable places.

**010 EASTERN SPOT-BILLED DUCK – *anas zonohyncha***

Common at most suitable places

**011 NORTHERN SHOVELER – *anas clypeata***

Quite Common at most suitable places

**012 NORTHERN PINTAIL – *anas acuta***

Quite Common at most suitable places, sometimes very confiding in Tokyo itself.

**013 BAIKAL TEAL – *anas Formosa***

04-03 1 immature (?) male in a flock of Eurasian Wigeon at a little pond along the 447 just outside Okuchi.

The bird had only one and a half elongated scapular.



*Look at the scapulars, indicating a Young bird?*

**014 EURASIAN TEAL – *anas crecca***

Common at Kyushu, mainly at Arasaki.

**015 COMMON POCHARD – *aythya farina***

02-03 2 ex seen Oueno park

**016 TUTED DUCK – *aythya fuligula***

About a 100 birds at Honshu and a further 10 on Kyushu.

**017 GREATER SCAUP – *aythya marila***

The most commonest duck at sea in big rafts.

**018 HARLEQUIN DUCK – *histrionicus histrionicus***

A big flock of about 60 birds was present at Chosi Harbour, with a lot of males

06-03 1 female at San Banse.

**019 BLACK SCOTER – *melanitta Americana***

02-03 4 males, at Chosi, hiding for the rough weather

**020 BUFFLEHEAD – *bucephala albeola***

06-03 1 immature male (breeding plumage looked to be coming through at the head) at San Banse. The bird was often diving with the Goldeneye's. Since there is no rarities committee in Japan I do not know how many records there are. It had been present for some time and was a new bird for Japan for Tom.

**021 COMMON GOLDENEYE – *bucephala clangula***

06-03 50 ex. at San Banse.

**022 SMEW – *mergellus albellus***

02-03 2 ex. at Inbanuma.

**023 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER – *mergus serrator***

06-03 15 ex. at San Banse.

**---- DIVER SPEC – *gavia spec.***

A total of 7 birds seen at both visits at Chosi, only quite far in flight and briefly swimming. They looked the most like Black-Throated Divers, gavia arctica.

**024 LAYSAN ALBATROSS – *phoebastria immutabilis***

07-03 100 ex during the ferry pelagic to and mainly from Hachijyo Jima to Tokyo.

**025 BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS – *phoebastria nigripes***

07-03 30 ex. during the ferry pelagic to and mainly from Hachijyo Jima to Tokyo. Nice views, often with hooked wings and rather small making them even at range identifiable from Short-tailed.

**026 SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS – *phoebastria albatrus***

07-03 11 ex!! (I missed one) during the ferry pelagic to and mainly from Hachijyo Jima to Tokyo.

Two adult birds, very nice views including the yellow and the rather open face, four all dark immature birds (at a distance the light belly and throat, with the rather big appearance straight wings and pinkish bill are a good ID mark) and five sub adult birds, one sub adult was very close to the boat and flying along. A great opportunity to see these species again after my first encounter at the Bering Sea near Attu.

**027 NORTHERN FULMAR - *fulmarus glacialis* ssp: *rogersii***

07-03 5 dark birds on the ferry pelagic. Maybe the quite cold winter storms brought them more south than usual.

**028 STREAKED SHEARWATER – *calonectris leucomelas***

07-03 Very common during the ferry pelagic to and mainly from Hachijyo Jima to Tokyo, maybe thousands seen.

**029 TRISTRAM'S STORMPETREL – *oceanodroma tristrami***

07-03 600 ex. during the ferry pelagic to and mainly from Hachijyo Jima to Tokyo. This is a normal species (winter breeder) but for me the best views after the poor ones a few years ago. Only at close birds the grey upperwing bar was visible. Rather long winged when flying along the boat, all dark chocolate brown storm petrel. Nice views.

**030 FORK-TAILED STORM PETREL – *oceanodroma furcata***

02-03 1 ex. close in the harbor of Chosi. Very nice scope views when the bird was flying along a dam in the harbor. This was another unexpected species due to a storm earlier in the week.

**031 LITTLE GREBE – *tachybaptus ruficollis***

Quite common on Honshu, less common on Kyushu (2 birds)

**032 RED-NECKED GREBE – *podiceps grisegena* ssp: *holboellii***

A total of 3 birds seen on both visits to Chosi. Big birds.

**033 GREAT CRESTED GREBE – *podiceps cristatus***

A total of 10 birds at Honshu mainly at Inbanuma.

**034 SLAVONIAN GREBE – *podiceps auritus***

2 birds seen on both visits to Chosi, both in winter plumage.

**035 BLACK-NECKED GREBE – *podiceps nigricollis***

A total of 50 birds seen in some tight flocks at both visits at Chosi harbor, many birds coming into summer plumage.

**036 EURASIAN SPOONBILL – *platalea leucorodia***

04-03 3 birds at Arasaki in one flock.

**037 BLACK-FACED SPOONBILL – *platalea minor***

04-03 1 adult in breeding plumage with the yellow naked skin at the lore at Arasaki.

**038 EURASIAN BITTERN – *botaurus stellaris***

02-03 1 heard at Inbanuma very clearly calling.

**039 BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON – *nycticorax nycticorax***

02-03 5 ex. in the reeds at Oueno park in central Tokyo.

**040 GREY HERON – *ardea cinerea***

Commonly seen during the trip in small flocks.

**041 GREAT WHITE EGRET – *casmerodius albus***

Common on both island.

**042 LITTLE EGRET – *egretta garzetta***

Seen in small numbers at both islands, also in the center of Tokyo (Oueno park) where birds coming in to roost (about 10)

**043 PACIFIC REEF EGRET – *egretta sacra***

02-03 1 ex. at Chosi harbour

05-03 1 ex. at a scrape near Myazaki.

**----- GREAT WHITE PELICAN – *pelecanus onocrotalus***

02-03 1 adult sitting on a boat at Inbanuma. This bird is present for years and I saw it also in summer 2007, maybe an escape.

**044 GREAT CORMORANT – *phalacrocorax carbo***

Common at most visited places.

**045 TEMMINK'S CORMORANT – *phalacrocorax capillatus***

A total of 5 birds seen at Chosi harbour. Easy recognisable by the large white area at the throat.

Still in winter plumage.

**046 PELAGIC CORMORANT – *phalacrocorax pelagicus***

Quite common around Chosi harbour.

**047 EURASIAN KESTREL – *falco tinnunculus***

04-03 1 ex. near Arasaki.

**048 MERLIN- *falco columbarius* ssp: *insignis***

01-03 4 ex, two at a roost and two hunting in the fields at Tomonegawa. Quite pale birds.

**049 PERIGRINE - *falco peregrinus***

A total of 3 birds seen, two at Honshu (of which a nice adult at Chosi) and one at the airport of Miyazaki.

**050 OSPREY – *pandion haliaetus***

2 birds seen at Honshu of which on the ferry pelagic. Common at Kyushu along the rivers.

**051 BLACK-EARED KITE – *milvus lineatus***

Common al over Japan.

**052 EASTERN MARSH HARRIER – *circus spilonotus***

01-03 25 ex. at a roost at Tomonegawa, some very nice males with them.

**053 HEN HARRIER – *circus cyaneus***

01-03 3 ex. one male coming into roost at Tomonegawa.

**054 NORTHERN GOSHAWK – *accipiter gentilis***

01-03 1 ex. coming down from Karuizawa.

**055 EASTERN BUZZARD – *buteo (buteo) japonicus***

Common on Honshu.

**056 ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD – *buteo lagopus***

01-03 1 ex. flying and later on sitting at the raptor roost at Tomonegawa. Very nice views of this quite pale bird.

**057 EASTERN WATER RAIL – *rallus indicus***

Many heard in the evening at Tomonegawa.

**058 COMMON COOT – *fuliga atra***

Common on most visited sites.

**059 COMMON MOORHEN – *gallinule chloropus***

05-03 2 ex. at Miyazaki.

**060 SANDHILL CRANE – *grus canadensis***

04-03 3 ex. seen well in the big flock of cranes close to the observatory.

**061 WHITE NAPED CRANE – *grus vipio***

04-03 1.100 ex. (official count) seen spread over the area at Arasaki. Very nice views.

**062 COMMON CRANE – *grus grus***

04-03 1 ad. Ex. with the Hooded Crane's

**063 HOODED CRANE – *grus monacha***

04-03 9.600 ex. seen well around Arasaki, in big flocks. Impressive.

**---- HYBRID HOODED X COMMON CRANE – *grus monacha x grus***

04-03 3 ex. seen in families Hooded Crane, all birds showed intermediate characters.

**064 EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER – *haematopus ostralegus* ssp: *osculans***

06-03 60 ex. in one flock at San Banse. Looked very similar as ours, what is the fuzz about?

**065 BLACK-WINGED STILT – *himantopus himantopus***

06-03 3 ex. at a little marsh along the way.

**066 NORTHERN LAPWING – *vanellus vanellus***

01-03 50 ex. in one flock at Tomonegawa.

**067 GREY PLOVER – *pluvialis squatarola***

Seen along the coast in small numbers all in winter plumage.

**068 LITTLE RINGED PLOVER – *charadrius dubius***

04-03 1 ex. at Arasaki in a rice field

**069 KENTISH PLOVER – *charadrius alexandrinus***

05-03 20 ex. at a scrape at Miyazaki

06-03 20 ex. at San Banse.

**\*070 SOLITARY SNIPE – *GALLINAGO SOLITARIA* ssp: *japonica***

27-02 1 ex at Yokohama, Maioka-koen Park (see Photo) very nice views.

28-02 1 ex at Karuizawa, standing in the stream and scope viewable from the road

Both birds were easy identifiable, big, with a strong dark lore, obvious red tail and both were constantly "bobbing" their body, leaving the head completely still.



What a snipe!, twitched after found on the net in January, photo by Koji Tagi.

**071 COMMON SNIPE – *gallinago gallinago***

A total of 10 birds seen in the rice fields at Honshu. Common at Kyushu.

**072 LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER – *limnodromus scolopaceus***

01-03 1 ex in winter plumage in a flock of Northern Lapwings at Tomonegawa in a field. Not so unexpected as thought before since small numbers winter in Japan.

**073 EURASIAN CURLEW – *numenius arquata***

06-03 3 ex. at San Banse

**074 COMMON SANDPIPER – *actitis hypoleucos***

02-03 1 ex. In the harbour of Chosi

**075 RUDDY TURNSTONE – *arenaria interpres***

02-03 5 birds flying over at Chosi harbour.

**076 SANDERLING – *calidris alba***

2 birds seen at San Banse and one near Myazaki. In winter plumage.

**077 TEMMINCK'S STINT – *calidris temminckii***

04-03 1 ex. in winter plumage at a little pool in a rice field in front of the visitors centre.

**078 LONG-TOED STINT – *calidris subminuta***

04-03 1 ex. In first winter plumage at a little pool in a rice field in front of the visitors centre.

**079 DUNLIN – *calidris alpina* ssp: *sakhalina***

Quite common on both coasts, the commonest wader.

**080 RUFF – *philomachus pugnax***

01-03 2 ex, one adult female and an immature bird in a flock of Northern lapwings at Tomonegawa. This is a rare species in Japan in winter.

**081 BLACK-TAILED GULL – *larus crassirostris***

The by far most common gull with impressive numbers at Chosi and other sites

**082 KAMCHATKA GULL – *larus (canus) kamtschatschensis***

Common at Chosi and along coastal sites, maybe the four most common gull.

**083 GLOUCOUS-WINGED GULL – *larus glaucescens***

About 35 seen in various plumages at Chosi.

**084 GLAUCOUS GULL – *larus hyperboreus***

About 40 birds seen mostly immatures but some adults at Chosi

**084 THAYER'S GULL – *larus thayeri***

02-03 7 ex, of which one adult bird seen at Chosi

06-03 7 ex. of which three different adults at Chosi.

Very knowledgeable and confusing sometimes. The adults were quite easy with the white underwing tips and (thin blackish) upperwingtips. One adult was still in winter plumage with a brown heavily winter head.



Thayer's second year bird.



Thayer's adult bird (looking away) look at the size (small) compared with the small Black Tailed Gulls



Thayer's second year bird







3 "Thayerish" Gulls, birds who had problems with and are not included in the total of certain birds. Comments are welcomed.

See also: [http://www23.tok2.com/home/jgull/0\\_jyouhou/jyouhou.html](http://www23.tok2.com/home/jgull/0_jyouhou/jyouhou.html)

**086 VEGA GULL – *larus vegae***

Common most at Chosi but at many visited places along the coast.

**087 MONGOLIAN GULL – *larus mongolicus***

06-03 1 first winter seen at Chosi. Difficult bur the ID was based on the structure (like *taymirensis*), and the rather frosty first winter/summer plumage compared to immature *taymirensis*

**088 SLATY-BACKED GULL – *larus schistisagus***

Common in many plumages at Chosi

**089 HEUGLIN'S GULL – *larus heuglini* ssp: *taimyrensis***

About 5 seen (one first winter) at Chosi

-- **HYBRID VEGA X GLAUCOUS GULL – hybrid *larus vegae* x *hyperboreus***

06-03 1 adult tentatively identified as this at Chosi.



*Hybrid Gull? Comments are welcome.*

**090 BLACK-HEADED GULL – *chroicocephalus ridibundus***

Common mostly at Chosi.

**091 SAUNDER'S GULL – *saundersilarus saundersi***

06-03 2 adult summer birds on the scrape at San Banse. Cracking views.

**092 BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – *rissa tridactyla***

A total of 25 birds during the two visits at Chosi

**093 POMARINE SKUA – *stercorarius pomarinus***

07-03 1 ex with a raft of Streaked Shearwaters during the ferry pelagic.

**094 ANCIENT MURRELET – *synthliboramplus antiquus***

07-03 1 ex. seen flying off the sea during the ferry pelagic. The white line behind the eye was visible, not pronounced like in Japanese.

**\*095 JAPANESE MURRELET – *SYNTHLIBORAMPUS WUMIZUSUME***

03-03 2 birds a pair seen very well at Kadogawa harbour. The birds were feeding (staying under for long times) inside and later on outside the harbour. Also seen wing flapping. The upper breast was black, strongly demarcated from the white belly and under breast seen while flapping with the breast towards me.



*The last alcid, only these two seen during a few hours stay.*

**096 ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE – *streptopelia orientalis* ssp: *orientalis***

Common on most visited places. Whitish trailing edge of the tail.

**097 WHITE-BELLIED GREEN PIGEON – *treron sieboldii***

05-03 Heard calling in the early morning. Not seen but I saw them on a former trip.

**098 PACIFIC SWIFT – *apus pacificus***

04-03 2 ex. flying for the observatory at Arasaki. White lobes on the underpart feathers were seen.

**099 COMMON KINGFISHER – *alcedo atthis***

A total of 2 seen on both islands when crossing a stream.

**100 CRESTED KINGFISHER – *megaceryle lugubris***

04-03 1 ex in the evening sitting in a tree at a little pond along the 447 just outside Okuchi. Always a difficult bird to find in Japan.

**101 JAPANESE PYGMY WOODPECKER – *yungipicus kizuki***

Common, often heard, also in the centre of Tokyo.

**102 WHITE-BACKED WOODPECKER – *dendrocopos leucotos***

05-03 1 ex. at a nest on the campground of Miike.

**103 GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER – *dendrocopos major***

A total of 5 birds seen at various places on Honshu.

**104 JAPANESE GREEN WOODPECKER – *picus awokera***

05-03 1 ex. seen very well at the upper parking place at Miike (near the temple), feeding close on the ground.

**105 RYUKU MINIVET – *pericrocotus tegimae***

05-03 Seen and heard at Miike and one at the coastal site at Myazaki

**106 BULL-HEADED SHRIKE – *lanius bucephalus***

Seen daily at both islands, also already high up in the forest (Karuizawa)

**107 EURASIAN JAY – *garrulus glandarius***

A total of 3 seen at Honshu and 2 seen (one very nice perched in front of me) at Miike.

**108 EASTERN ROOK – *corvus frugilegus* ssp: *pastinator***

Quite common in big flocks at Arasaki.

**109 CARRION CROW – *corvus corone* ssp: *orientalis***

Seen in small numbers on Honshu.

**110 LARGE-BILLED CROW – *corvus macrorhynchos***

Common everywhere also in Tokyo city.

**111 JAPANESE WAXWING – bombycilla japonica**

28-02+01-03 a flock of 18 birds seen at Karuizawa in the mistletoe in the forest.

Nice views in the scoop and all the details seen. Ironic to find this quite difficult species again (my third observation) instead of Pallas's Rosefinch which was not in Japan this winter and I missed several times.

**112 EASTERN GREAT TIT (JAPANESE TIT) – parus (major)**

Common on both islands.

**113 VARIED TIT – poecile varius**

A total of 15 ex. seen on both islands. Nice views.

**114 WILLOW TIT – poecile montanus ssp: baicalensis**

28-02 a total of 5 birds seen on the feeders at Stained glass

**115 BARN SWALLOW – hirundo rustica**

Common along the east coast of Kyushu.

**116 LONG-TAILED TIT – aegithalos caudatus**

Seen in small numbers on both island, looking "normal" not white headed.

**117 JAPANESE SKYLARK – alauda (arvensis) japonica**

Small numbers seen in the rice fields of Tomonegawa and Arasaki.

**118 BROWN-EARED BULBUL – microscelis amaurotis**

Very common all over the visited places.

**119 MARSH GRASSBIRD – megalurus pryeri ssp: pryeri**

01-03 10 ex. mostly heard but one seen at Tomonegawa, low calling from the reed beds in the evening.

**120 JAPANESE BUSH WARBLER – cettia diphone**

Common on both islands, often singing and producing the "Japan sound".

**121 JAPANESE WHITE-EYE – zosterops japonicus**

Common throughout the trip, also in the centre of Tokyo.

**122 WINTER WREN - troglodytes troglodytes ssp: fumigatus**

Small numbers seen on Honshu, nice dark birds.

**123 EURASIAN NUTHATCH – sitta europaea**

Seen and heard on Honshu (Karuizawa) and Kyushu (Miike)

**124 WHITE-CHEEKED STARLING – sturnus cineraceus**

Common on Honshu and Kyushu in big flocks.

**125 PALE THRUSH – turdus pallidus**

Quite common, mainly on Kyushu, seen mostly under bushes, quite shy.

**126 BROWN-HEADED THRUSH – turdus chrysolaus**

A total of 5 birds seen in total on Honshu the most in Maioka-koen Park.

**127 DUSKY THRUSH – turdus eunomus**

Common on Honshu and Kyushu, the Blackbird of Japan (in winter)

**128 NORTHERN RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL – luscinia cyanura**

A total of 4 birds (one almost adult male) seen at Karuizawa.

**129 DAURIAN REDSTART – phoenicurus auroreus**

A total of 2 seen on Honshu, quite common on Kyushu.

**130 BROWN DIPPER – cinclus pallasii**

A total of 3 birds at Karuizawa

**131 EURASIAN TREE SPARROW – passer montanus**

Common throughout the trip.

**132 JAPANESE ACCENTOR – prunella rubida**

01-03 1 ex. seen very well coming down from Karuizawa at a clearing. Nicely seen with the warm brown head (cap) and brown back flank.

**133 WHITE WAGTAIL – motacilla alba ssp: lugens + leucopsis**

Lugens common on Honshu and Leucopsis, 2 seen on Kyushu (one at Miike)

**134 JAPANESE WAGTAIL – motacilla grandis**

01-03 2 birds seen along the way coming down from Karuizawa, one male singing from a wire.

**135 RICHARD'S PIPIT – anthus richardi**

04-03 2 ex. in the fields of Arasaki, nice views.

**136 OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT – anthus hodgsoni**

05-03 7 ex. at Miike's campground.

**137 BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT – anthus (rubescens) japonicus**

Common in the rice fields mainly at Tomonegawa and Arasaki. Often the Meadow Pipit call heard.

**138 BRAMBLING – fringilla montifringilla**

28-02 200 ex. at the feeding tables at Stained Glass. Some where coming into summer plumage.

**139 ORIENTAL GREENFINCH – *carduelis sinica* ssp: *kawarahiba***

Common on both islands in small flocks, the birds mainly the males appeared quite dark on the underparts.

**140 ASIAN ROSY FINCH – *leucosticte arctoa***

28-02 a total of 70 birds at the feeding table of Stained Glass. They came down because of the snow.

**141 LONG-TAILED ROSEFINCH – *uragus sibiricus***

A total of 5 birds with some cracking males at Karuizawa

**142 EURASIAN BULLFINCH – *pyrrhula pyrrhula* ssp: *griseiventris***

28-02 3 birds on the feeders of Stained Glass. Some birds had a little pink on the grey breast.

**143 HAWFINCH – *coccothraustes coccothraustes* ssp: *japonicus***

28-02 50 birds on the feeders at Stained Glass, lighter and a more plain face than ours.

**144 JAPANESE GROSBEAK – *eophona personata***

28-02 200 ex. on the feeders of Stained Glass

05-03 25 in one flock in the early morning at the parking place at Miike, singing.

**145 MEADOW BUNTING – *emberiza leucocephalos***

The most common bunting, with small numbers in the hills and large flocks in the rice fields. It was after practice possible to ID buntings on their tick call.

**146 CHESNUT-EARED BUNTING – *emberiza fucata***

01-03 10 ex. in small flocks of two and three in the rice fields of Tomonegawa.

04-03 15 ex. in the fields of Arasaki.

Nice big bunting.

**147 RUSTIC BUNTING – *emberiza rustica***

28-02 1 ex. on the feeding tables of Stained Glass

01-03 Common in big flocks in the rice fields of Tomonegawa.

**148 ELEGANT BUNTING – *emberiza elegans***

28-02 1 female while searching for pheasants near Stained Glass

05-03 2 ex., one male briefly and one female seen very well at Miike.

**149 BLACK-FACED BUNTING – *emberiza spodocephala* ssp: *personata***

A total of 5 seen at Honshu mainly solitary birds in wet scrubby areas.

Common on Kyushu in similar habitat, often very nice yellow males.

**150 GREY BUNTING – *emberiza variabilis***

05-03 2 birds one male (in flight) and one female (nice views) together at Miike. The birds like the hillsides just away from the lake shore.

**151 COMMON REED BUNTING – *emberiza schoeniclus* ssp: *pyrrhulina***

Common at Honshu (Tomonegawa) and Kyushu (Arasaki).

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