

Welcome to Nemuro Eastern Hokkaido, a Paradise for Japanese Wild Birds



Nemuro City・Nemuro Tourist Association

Welcome to Japan’s No. 1 Wild Bird Paradise!

The Nemuro and Kushiro region is located in the eastern part of Hokkaido, Japan’s Northern Island.

More than 370 species of birds have been recorded in this region.

The list of species includes a number of iconic birds such as Red-crowned Crane, Blakiston’s Fish Owl and Steller’s Sea Eagle, but the list of interesting species goes on and on: White-tailed Eagle, Whooper Swan, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Temminck’s Cormorant, Red-faced Cormorant, Hazel Grouse, Latham’s Snipe, Brown Dipper, Spectacled Guillemot, Pigeon Guillemot, Ancient Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Tufted Puffin, Ural Owl, Short-eared Owl, Black Woodpecker, Grey-headed Woodpecker, White-backed Woodpecker, Japanese Robin, Siberian Rubythroat, Gray’s Warbler, Middendorff’s Grasshopper Warbler, Lanceolated Warbler, Asian Rosy Finch and so on.

There are three national parks in the region: Akan-Mashu NP, Kushiro-shitsugen NP, and Shiretoko NP. In July 2005, the Shiretoko area was designated as a World Natural Heritage. They are all very well worth visiting.

Eastern Hokkaido is embraced by the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean and the land is rich in rivers, lakes, bays, mountains, volcanoes, forests, and wetlands. As a result, it has a very diverse natural environment.

In addition to these features, this region has many fishing ports where you can enjoy watching hundreds of gulls, ducks and wintering sea eagles very easily. You can also enjoy bird-watching cruises all year round and whale-watching cruises in summer; these are operated from several of these fishing ports.

Seabird-watching cruises in the Nemuro area and eagle-watching cruises from Rausu are highlights of visits to this region. You can enjoy watching a range of guillemots, auklets, shearwaters, sea-ducks, divers, skuas, and albatrosses in the Nemuro area in summer or winter, while watching or photographing eagles on sea-ice off Rausu in February has become world famous.

Watching or photographing Red-crowned Cranes is another excellen experience.

<Recommended Itinerary for Bird-watching Tour in Eastern Hokkaido>

Summer Season

- Day 1 : Arrive at Kushiro Airport in the morning.
Meet a bird-watching guide or rent a car.
Drive for 40 minutes to Kushiro Bettupo Forest Park. Try to find Grey-headed Green Woodpecker, Black Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Japanese Robin, etc.
Drive for 1 hour to Akkeshi or Hamanaka.
Driving in several forest roads for Hazel Grouse, Red-flanked Bluetail, Eurasian Jay, etc.
Looking for Lanceolated Warbler, Siberian Rubythroat on boardwalk at Kiritappu Marsh,etc.
Drive for 1 hour to Nemuro.
- <Stay in Nemuro Area>
- Day 2 : Looking for Gray’s Warbler and forestbirds at Meiji Park early in the morning.
Take Ochi-ishi Nature Cruise in the morning for Spectacled Guillemot, Pigeon Guillemot, Ancient Murrelet, Tufted Puffin, Horned Puffin, Common & Brunnich’s Guillemot, Rhinoceros Auklet, Short-tailed, Sooty, & Flesh-footed Shearwaters, Black-footed & Laysan Albatrosses, Temminck’s, Pelagic & Red-faced Cormorants, etc.
In the afternoon, visit Lake Furen and Syunkunitai in Nemuro for Red-crowned Crane, several kinds of waders, Latham’s Snipe, White-tailed Sea Eagle, Eurasian Wryneck, Sand Martin, Sakhalin Leaf Warbler, etc.
*Alternative plan is taking a new cruise tour called "Lake Furen & Onneto Cruise"
Drive to Cape Nosappu, the most east point of Japan. Visit a hide to enjoy seabird-watching with spectacular views.
- <Stay in Nemuro Area>
- Day 3 : Drive for 1 hour to Hashirikotan area in Lake Furen.
Try to find families of Red-crowned Crane and several kinds of grasslandbirds.
Drive to Notsuke Peninsula Nature Centre for Siberian Rubythroat, Gray’s & Middendorff’s Grasshopper Warblers, Eurasian & Oriental Cuckoos, Latham’s Snipe, Siberian Rubythroat, etc.
Some waders including Common Redshank are possible in spring or autumn.
Drive all the way to Rausu Area.(1 hour)
After dinner, enjoy Blakiston’s Fish Owl in the small creek.
- <Stay in Rausu Area>
- Day 4 : Early in the morning, drive up to Shiretoko Pass and try to find Pine Grosbeaks around the parking area.
Take a morning cruise tour for several kinds of whales & dolphins including Killer Whales.
Drive to Okhotsk Sea area. (It takes about 2hours)
Visit Koshimizu Wild Flower Garden & Lake Tofutsu to retry missed marshbirds & grasslandbirds.
Move to Yoroushi Hot Spring Area for Blakiston’s Fish Owl.
- <Stay in Yoroushi Hot Spring Area>
- Day 5 : Enjoy an early-morning walk to find Brown Dipper, Great Spotted Woodpecker, and Eurasian Jay. Also retry to find missed woodlandbirds.
Depart from Nakashibetsu Airport for Tokyo.
**If you would like to stay longer, adding the numbers of stay in Rausu or Nemuro is quite recommendable.

Winter Season

- Day 1 : Arrive at Kushiro Airport in the morning. Meet a bird-watching guide or rent a car.
Drive for 30 minutes to Akan International Crane Centre.
Enjoy watching Red-crowned Cranes dancing on the snowfield.
Drive to "Sand Hot Spring" of Lake Kussharo. (90minutes)
Photographing Whooper Swans in the mist at a place where hotspring water melts frozen lake.
Move to Sunset Crane Viewing Point. Time permitting, move to Tsurui Village and visit Tsurumi-dai & Tsurui Ito Sanctuary for Red-crowned Cranes.
- <Stay in Tsurui Village>
- Day 2 : Visit Otowa Bridge very early in the morning and enjoy a fantastic view of the cranes resting in the river covered by mist called "Kearashi".
Enjoy watching extremely cute Ural Owl sitting in the hollow nearby.
Drive for 2 hours to Kiritappu Area via Akkeshi Fishery Port and Lake Hichirippu, Cape Kiritappu. Try to find Brent Goose, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Falcated Duck, etc.in fishing ports and coasts. Try to find Snow Bunting, Asian Rosy Finch, Rough-legged Buzzard, etc. in the grassland.
Move to Nemuro Area along the North Pacific Seaside Line.
- <Stay in Nemuro Area>
- Day 3 : In the morning, enjoy watching several kinds of seaducks at Hanasaki Port.
Take Ochi-ishi Nature Cruise in the morning for Spectacled Guillemot, Pigeon Guillemot, Ancient Murrelet, Crested Auklet, Least Auklet, Common & Brunnich’s Guillemot, Falcated Duck, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Black Scoter, Pelagic Cormorant, Red-faced Cormorant, Red-breasted Merganser, Glaucous Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull etc.
In the afternoon, drive to Cape Nosattspu, the most east point of Japan.
Visit a hide to enjoy seabirds watching with specacular views.
Try to find Long-tailed Duck, Harlequin Duck, Black Scoter, Glaucous-winged Gull, Glaucous Gull, Northern Raven, etc at nearby fishing ports.
- <Stay in Nemuro Area>
- Day 4 : Visit Nemuro Citizen’s Forest Hide for very close looking at Marsh Tit, Eurasian Nuthatch, Long-tail Tit, Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker, White-backed Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Eurasian Jay.
Move to Notsuke Peninsula via Hashirikotan and Kawaguchi Fishery Port. (90minutes)
Try to find Snow Bunting, Lapland Bunting, Asian Rosy Finch, Eurasian Kestrel, Short-eared Owl, etc.
Move to Rausu Area. (80minutes)
After dinner, enjoy watching or photographing Blakiston’s Fish Owl coming to a small creek.
- <Stay in Rausu Area>
- Day 5 : Take an early morning cruise tour for Steller’s & White-tailed Eagles on packed ices.
Retry to find missed seabirds.
Depart from Nakashibetsu Airport for Tokyo.
**If you would like to stay longer, adding the numbers of stay in Tsurui, Rausu or Nemuro is quite recommendable.



Nemuro Tourist Association
2-10 Kowa-cho, Nemuro-shi, Hokkaido Tourist Information Centre
U R L https://nemuro-hokkaido.com/
E-mail info@nemuro-kankou.com
T E L +81-133-24-3104

Visit the Otowa Bridge in Tsurui Village very early on winter mornings to see the cranes leaving their overnight roost-it’s a spectacular experience. You can watch the cranes resting or dancing in the mist rising from the river.

The best seasons for bird-watching in this region are the periods between late January and early March for winter birds and between mid-June and early August for summer birds. You need at least 4-5 days for watching or photo-graphing, but if you really want to enjoy the region’s birds, staying for one week is recommendable.

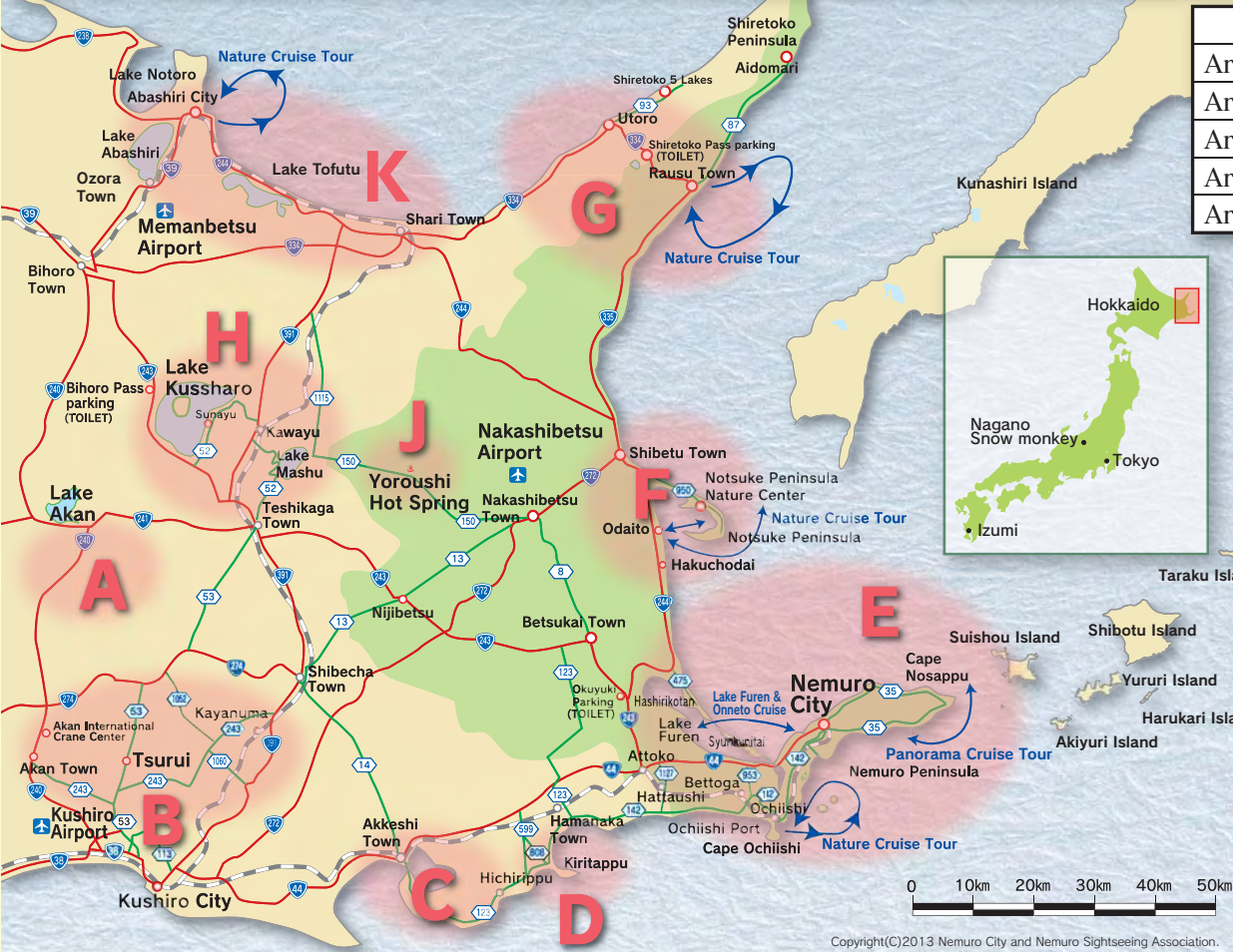
There is a great range of accommodations in the area, which includes reasonable Japanese-style inns, B&B, and western style hotels. You can enjoy Japanese style meals throughout the region, but for those who do not enjoy Japanese cuisine, western-style meals are available in most of the towns. In most of the inns and hotels, you can enjoy Japanese-style public hot-spring baths, which are wonderfully relaxing after a long day out in the field birdwatching. For those not interested in experiencing this traditional Japanese culture, western-style baths may also be available; it is best to make your intentions clear when you choose your accommodations.

Western-style rent-a-car service is available at each airport, and is quite reasonably priced. Driving around this area in summer is very pleasant, but driving on frozen winter roads is challenging and may be dangerous for beginners. Hiring an English-speaking bird-watching guide is recommended, and we have several that we can introduce you to. They can provide you not only with bird-watching guiding service, but will also drive for you and will be there to interpret the language and culture you experience during your stay.

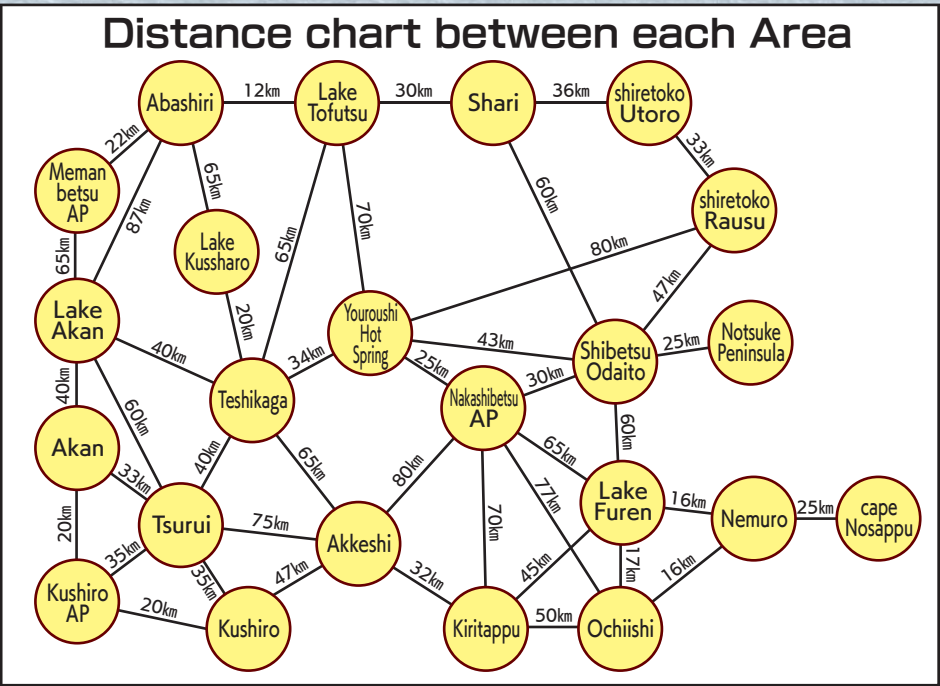


Where to Watch Your Target Birds

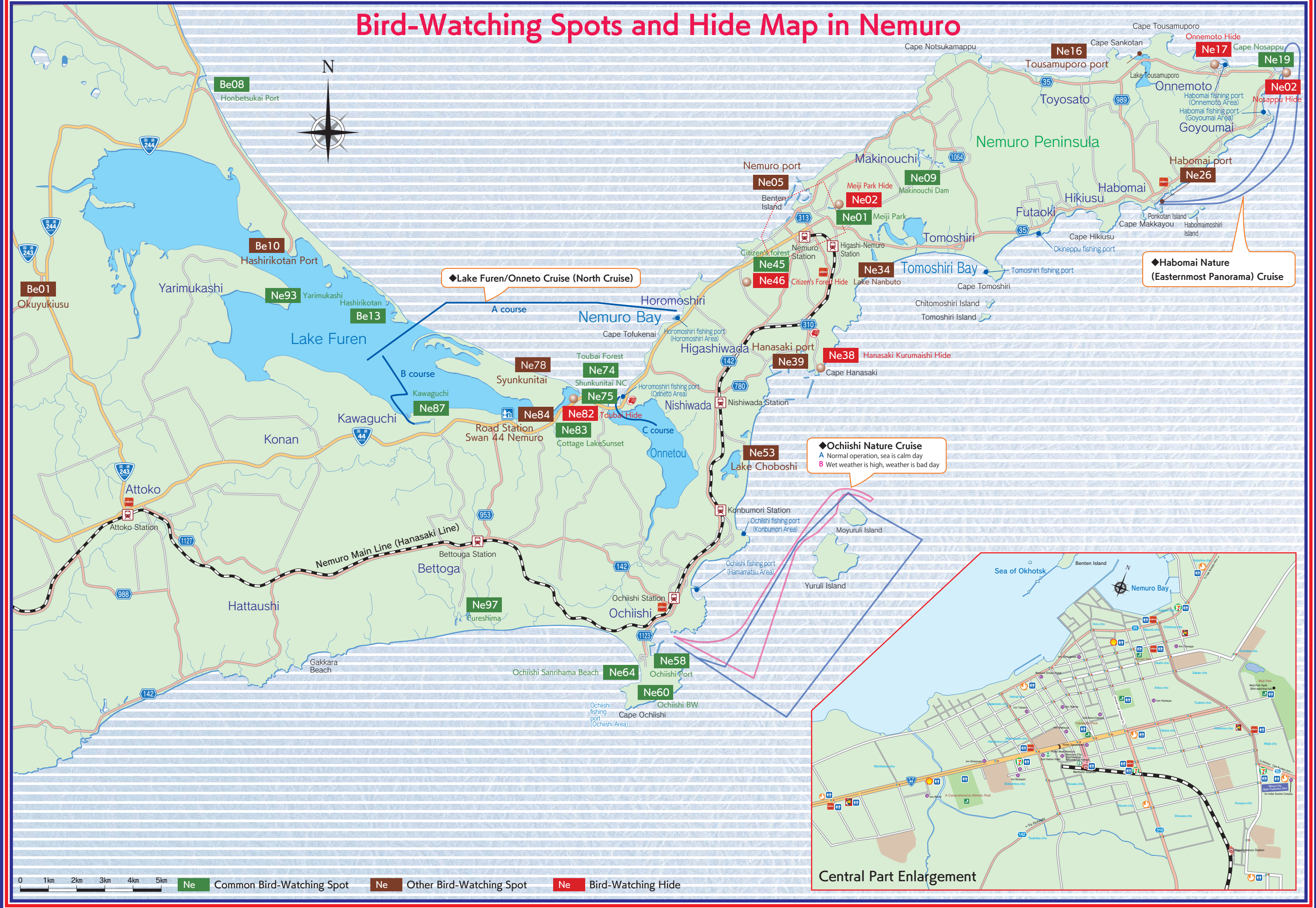
Species	Summer	Winter	Species	Summer	Winter	Species	Summer	Winter
Laysan Albatross	Area-E	None	Red-crowned Crane	Widely Distributed	Area-B	Ural Owl	None	Area-B/E
Black-footed Albatross	Area-E	None	Latham’s Snipe	Area-D/E/F/K	None	Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker	Widely Distributed	Widely Distributed
Short-tailed Shearwater	Area-E/G/K	None	Rock Sandpiper	None	Area-E	Black Woodpecker	Area-A/H	Area-A/H
Temminck’s Cormorant	Area-B/C/D/E/F/G/K	Area-B/C/D/E/F/G/K	Pigeon Guillemot	Area-E/K	Area-E	Brown Dipper	Area-A/G/J	Area-A/G/J
Red-faced Cormorant	Area-E	Area-E	Spectacled Guillemot	Area-E/G/K	Area-E	Japanese Robin	Area-B/C/E	None
White-tailed Sea Eagle	Area-E/F/G/K	Area-C/E/F/G/K	Ancient Murrelet	Area-E/K	Area-E	Siberian Rubythroat	Widely Distributed	None
Steller’s Sea Eagle	None	Area-C/E/F/G/K	Crested Auklet	None	Area-E	Red-flanked Bluetail	Widely Distributed	None
Whooper Swan	None	Area-C/E/F/H/K	Least Auklet	None	Area-E	Gray’s Warbler	Area-B/C/D/E/F/K	None
Harlequin Duck	None	Area-C/D/E/F/G/K	Rhinoceros Auklet	Area-E/K	None	Long-tailed Tit	Widely Distributed	Widely Distributed
Black Scoter	None	Area-C/D/E/F/G/K	Tufted & Horned Puffins	Area-E	None	Snow Bunting	None	Area-D/E/F/K
Red-breasted Merganser	None	Widely Distributed	Blakiston’s Fish Owl	Area-G/J	Area-G/J	Asian Rosy Finch	None	Area-B/D/E/F/K
Hazel Grouse	Area-A/E/J	None	Short-eared Owl	None	Area-D/E/F/K	Pine Grosbeak	Area-G	None



Area			
Area-A	Lake Akan Hot Spring Resort	Area-F	Notsuke Peninsula & Odaito & Shibetsu
Area-B	Akan, Tsurui Village & Kayanuma	Area-G	Shiretoko Pass, Rausu & Utoro
Area-C	Akkeshi & Hichirippu Lake	Area-H	Teshikaga & Lake Kussharo
Area-D	Kiritappu	Area-J	Yoroushi Hot Spring Resort
Area-E	Nemuro Peninsula & Hashiri-kotan	Area-K	Lake Tofutsu & Koshimizu Natural Flower Garden & Shari Port



Bird-Watching Spots and Hide Map in Nemuro



※Reproduction or appropriation of images and photographs from within this map is prohibited

◆ Occurrence of Principal Birds of Each Month

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Ocean sea	Coast	Marsh	Lake River	grass land	forest
Laysan Albatross					▲	▲	▲	▲					●					
Temminck's Cormorant	▲	▲	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	▲	●	●				
Red-faced Cormorant	●	●	●	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	●	●	●				
Steller's Sea Eagle	●	●	▲								▲	●		●	●	●		
White-tailed Sea Eagle	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		
Whooper Swan	●	●	●	●	▲					●	●	●			●	●	▲	
Falcated Duck	●	●	●							●	●	●		●	●	●		
White-winged Scoter	●	●	●	●					●	●	●	●	●	●		▲		●
Hazel Grouse	▲	▲	▲	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	▲						●
Red-crowned Crane			▲	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	▲			●	●	●	
Latham's Snipe					●	●	●	▲	▲						●		●	
Rock Sandpiper	●	●	●	▲							▲	●		●				
Pigeon Guillemot	●	●	●	●	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	●	●					
Spectacled Guillemot	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
Tufted Puffin					▲	●	●	●	▲	●			●	●				
Ancient Murrelet	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●			
Crested Auklet	●	●	●										●					
Least Auklet	●	●	●									▲	●					
White-backed Woodpecker	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						●
Japanese Waxwing	▲	▲	▲								▲	▲						●
Japanese Robin					▲	●	●	●	▲	▲								●
Siberian Rubythroat					▲	●	●	●	▲	▲						●	●	
Red-flanked Bluetail				▲	▲	●	●	●	▲									●
Gray's Warbler						●	●	▲								●		●
Eastern Crowned Warbler				▲	▲	●	●	●	▲	▲							●	●
Long-tailed Tit	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						●
Lapland Bunting	●	●	▲								▲	●		●	●	●	●	
Grey Bunting					●	●	▲	▲	●	●								●
Asian Rosy Finch	●	●	●	▲						▲	●	●		●	●			
Russet Sparrow						●	●	●	●								●	●

◆ Common Bird-Watching Spots in Nemuro

Ne05 Nemuro Port	MAP	Ne53 Lake Choboshi	MAP
Ne16 Tosamuporo Port	MAP	Ne78 Syunkunitai	MAP
Ne26 Habomai Port	MAP	Ne84 Road Station Swan 44 Nemuro	MAP
Ne34 Lake Nanbuto	MAP	Be01 Okuyukiusu	MAP
Ne39 Hanasaki Port	MAP	Be10 Hashirikotan Port	MAP

◆ Road, Weather and Travel Information

- Road Information in Hokkaido
- Daily Weather Forecasts: Kushiro/Nemuro
- Hokkaido Disaster Prevention Information
- List of medical Institutions available in English
- Multilingual Speech Translation App "VoiceTra"

◆ Bird-Watching Cruises in Nemuro

◆ Ochiishi Nature Cruise

Operation all year round

Target Birds
SeaBirds (Tufted Puffin, Spectacled Guillemot, Pigeon Guillemot, Least Auklet)

Passage fare JYE8,000

Boarding point MAP

◆ Habomai Nature (Easternmost Panorama) Cruise

Operation only in winter

Target Birds
SeaBirds (Spectacled Guillemot, Pigeon Guillemot, Least Auklet, Ancient Murrelet)

Passage fare JYE5,000

Boarding point MAP

◆ Lake Furen/Onneto Cruise (North Cruise)

Operation from spring to autumn

Target Birds
Red-crowned Crane, White-tailed Sea Eagle, Whooper Swan, Shorebirds, Ducks

Passage fare JYE3,000~5,000

Boarding point A course MAP **Boarding point** B course MAP **Boarding point** C course MAP

◆ Bird-Watching Hides in Nemuro

Ne02 ◆ Meiji Park Hide

Open Hours / Mar.-Oct. 6 : 00~17 : 00 Nov.-Feb. 7:00~16 : 00

Target Birds
Long-tailed Tit, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Siberian Rubythroat, Gray's Warbler, Oriental Cuckoo, MAP

Ne17 ◆ Onnemoto Hide

Open 24 hours

Target Birds
Rock Sandpiper, Steller's Sea Eagle, Harlequin Duck, White-winged Scoter, Asian Rosy Finch, Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler, Black-browed Reed Warbler, MAP

Ne20 ◆ Cape Nosappu Hide

Open Hours / Mar.-Oct. 6 : 00~17 : 00 Nov.-Feb. 7:00~16 : 00

Target Birds
Temminck's Cormorant, Red-faced Cormorant, Spectacled Guillemot, Pigeon Guillemot, Crested Auklet, Least Auklet, MAP

Ne38 ◆ Hanasaki Port Kurumaishi Hide

Open Hours / Mar.-Oct. 6 : 00~17 : 00 Nov.-Feb. 7:00~16 : 00

Target Birds
Temminck's Cormorant, Spectacled Guillemot, Black Scoter, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Divers(Loons), MAP

Ne46 ◆ Citizen's Forest Hide

Open 24 hours

Target Birds
Great Spotted Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Marsh Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Eurasian Nuthatch, Eurasian Jay, Eastern Crowned Warbler, Common Redpoll, Black-faced Bunting, MAP

Ne82 ◆ Tobai Hide

Open 24 hours

Target Birds
ed-crowned Crane, Steller's Sea Eagle, White-tailed Sea Eagle, Whooper Swan, Common Goldeneye, Shorebird s, MAP