

エコシステム

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渡り鳥が減っている

- | 世界の環境を見ている渡り鳥
- | 7割が渡り鳥
- | 狭まる生息環境
- | 渡り鳥が求める自然環境
- | 欧米における国境を越えた取り組み
- | 世界共通の財産を守る

自分の翼だけで、壮大な旅を続ける渡り鳥。その貴重な鳥たちの生息地を打ち壊した日本。干潟、草地、森の再生が今、求められています。

Migratory birds fly great distances relying only on their wings. But their survival environments and habitats have been significantly degraded in Japan. To protect migratory birds into the future, it is about time for Japan to do her best in international efforts to restore tidal mud flats, wetlands, grasslands, and forests.

Migratory Birds: Local Nature Is Connected to the World

The Japanese climate has four distinct seasons, and many migratory birds species fly to and from Japan for their breeding, wintering and resting places. It has been confirmed that more than 70 % of birds seen in Japan are migratory. Swallows, for example, fly to Japan from Southeast Asia in spring for breeding. Chicks born in Japan will mature by fall and fly overseas to their parents' home. Shorebirds, such as sandpipers and plovers, fly from their breeding sites in Siberia to wintering sites in Southeast Asia and Australia, stopping over in Japan to rest and recover during spring and fall.

Each species of migratory birds needs various environments according to the season and species. For example, the grey-faced buzzard (*Butastur indicus*) uses forests and wetlands. Ducks use rivers and lakes. Shorebirds use rice paddies, fields, and wetlands in urban areas in addition to mud-flats and freshwater wetlands. Unfortunately, these environments and habitats for migratory birds have been shrinking or disappearing quickly in Japan. From 1945 to 2005, almost 40% of Japan's wetlands were eliminated by development. 20% of Japan's natural forests were converted to artificial tree plantations. Rural areas called Satochi/Satoyama, located between natural areas and urban areas, have maintained their diverse environments as farmers and foresters have been using nature-sustaining practices for many centuries. However, as social structures and lifestyle have changed rapidly, those areas have also become simpler environments and many of them have been abandoned. All these negative changes are considered to be causes of shorebird decline of 40-50% over the past 25 years. There has also been a drastic decline of summer birds that once bred in natural forests.

The best way to maintain and restore environments and habitats that migratory birds use is, of course, to

stop filling wetlands and mudflats. To restore and nourish wetlands and tidal mud flats we need to remove concrete structures that obstruct rivers and disrupt connections between rivers and seas in order to supply sands and mud to the coasts. We also need to revert artificial tree plantations back to natural forests.

In North America and Europe, there are many international projects to protect migratory birds. The European Union (EU), with 28 member countries, has established a continent-wide conservation network called "Natura 2000" for which every member must create its own program. The EU also has a subsidiary program called "LIFE" to promote protection of nature. From 2003 to 2007 Finland has used this program to create a wetland network along its southern flyway. As a result, the population of geese, sandpipers and plovers has increased fourfold and that of ducks two fold. Separately, the United States, Canada, and Mexico have entered into an agreement called "North American Waterfowl Management Plan". It was signed in 1986 by the United States and Canada and in 1994 by Mexico. This plan has become a pioneering model for continent-wide program. In Canada, there are 92 sanctuaries for migratory birds. One of them, the Last Mountain Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary, is the oldest sanctuary in North America established in 1887. During the migratory seasons of spring and fall, more than 280 species of wild birds will visit there.

Even if other countries work hard to protect migratory birds, if Japan neglects to protect them sufficiently, then whole international efforts will become ineffective. We must secure good habitats for migratory birds throughout Japan and connect those habitats into ecological networks. Habitat protection for migratory birds that need diverse environments to survive will also

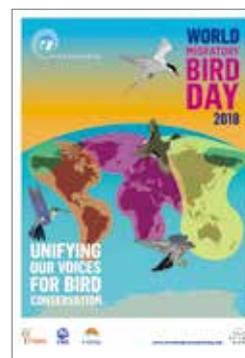
contribute to reduction of greenhouse gasses (like CO₂) as well as help to mitigate natural disasters. Our human environment will be greatly improved in the process, too.



Migratory birds sometimes fly incredible distances looking for better breeding or wintering sites



To support diverse migratory birds, we must protect various environments



The poster of World Migratory Bird Day 2018. World Migratory Bird Day is a worldwide campaign promoted by United Nations to protect migratory birds and their habitats



Land trust activities can help migratory birds. 1230 ha of deciduous forests in Ryogami Mountain in Saitama Prefecture were bought with donations from citizens and businesses for the public good and for the conservation of wildlife habitats

禁無断転載 海外との情報交流促進のため、要約を英文で掲載しています