

Oriental White Storks Reintroduction Project

Features

- This project aims to reintroduce the previously extinct oriental white stork into Japan's natural environment. In July, 2007, a chick hatched naturally and left the nest for the first time in forty six years. Furthermore, a third-generation oriental white stork that hatched in the wild in May, 2012, and left the nest in July.
- Natural surroundings where oriental white storks live also provide a good living environment for humans. Based on this knowledge, plans to make the area more environmentally friendly are making progress. Creative, environmentally friendly farming has been introduced and Satoyama (areas that stretch between urban and natural regions that contain diversified natural environments created by nature-human interaction) and restoration projects of natural rivers are being maintained.

Overview

(Technical principles, actions, etc.)



First trial release of stork (September 2005)



Chicks leaving the nest (June 2008)

In 1971, Japan's last wild oriental white stork disappeared from the Tajima area, the northern part of Hyogo Prefecture. An artificial breeding program began in 1965, and the first successful artificial breeding took place in 1989. In 2002, more than one hundred storks were bred artificially.

The first trial release of storks took place in 2005. In July, 2007, a chick, hatched by a pair of released storks, naturally left the nest for the first time in forty six years. 2012 marked a new milestone for the species in its return to wild, when the oriental white stork left its nest in Toyooka City, as did other third-generation wild oriental white storks that hatched in the wild in Kyoto Prefecture (Kyotango City). As of February, 2013, 59 birds (excluding 2 wild oriental white storks) were flying mainly in the Tajima region.

The natural surroundings where storks live also provide a good environment for humans. Local residents, the national, prefectural, and municipal governments are aware of this and are making arrangements in community development in order to live symbiotically with the storks. Creative, environmentally friendly, pesticide-free farming has been introduced and Satoyama and neo-natural river reconstruction methods are being maintained.

Introductory Track Record and Effects

- The number of oriental white storks (as of February 28, 2013) Bred in captivity: 90 Bred in the wild: 59
- Total cultivated area of farming systems designed to foster oriental white storks (Unit:ha)

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0.7	1.8	50.5	111.8	197.7	253.5	319.8	356.8	391.2

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