

コウノトリの野生復帰と地域の生物多様性保全 江崎保男

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Reintroduction of the Oriental White Stork as a measure for recovery of biodiversity in rural area of Japan

A wild population of the Oriental White Stork *Ciconia boyciana* existed in Tajima District, northern part of Hyogo Prefecture until 1960's, but it was extinct in 1971. Just before extinction the Government of Hyogo Prefecture started to capture the small number of storks that survived in the wild, and it challenged captive breeding of storks in aviaries constructed in Toyo-oka City. The success was brought about in 1989 by a pair of storks transferred by Russian Government. Thereafter captive population size increased over 100, and reintroduction started in 2005. Seven birds being the van for the year, 27 birds in total were released into the wild by Hyogo Park of the Oriental White Stork, a prefectural institute specializing in reintroduction of the stork that was established in 1999 and taking over the aviaries. It was in 2006 that the first clutch was laid in the wild, and in 2007 the first chick fledged after 46 years from the last fledging in the wild in Japan.

Pairs of the Oriental White Stork have territories throughout a year and after reintroduction most of the pairs bred on artificial nest-towers built by various kinds of stakeholders including the Government of Hyogo Prefecture, the Government of Toyo-oka City, HPOWS and residents of the City. Some of the towers are built in the open space in paddy field area, different from the past wild population that nested on top of large pine trees on the hill-side facing paddy field. And some of the pairs have raised their young depending on fish artificially supplied.

In this lecture I report on the present situation of the Oriental White Stork reintroduced in Japan based on data acquired after the start of reintroduction and emphasize that this project is aiming at the recovery of biodiversity in the river-paddy ecological complex in a rural area of Japan. Problems that we face are reported also. Getting consensus among local residents are very important.