

# YONAGO WATERBIRD SANCTUARY

## The Yonago Waterbird Sanctuary

Nakaumi is the largest wintering home in Western Japan for Tundra Swans. In the past there were many spots that served as nesting grounds for the swans, however recent land reclamation did away with many of these shallow ground areas. This left a single lake formed by Yonago's Hikona reclaimed land project to serve as a lone nesting location for the swans. Along with providing protection for wild birds habitats, the city of Yonago opened the Yonago Waterbird Sanctuary on October 22, 1995 as a place for the residents to enjoy the beauty of nature. Presently, it has been verified that there are over 10,000 wildbirds of approximately 100 species in the area every year. It is now considered the foremost wildbirds sanctuary in Western Japan.

## Encounter, observe and experience The waterbird of the sanctuary

### Nature Center

#### Observation Hall

Here, one can observe various types of wild birds in an environment featuring four distinct seasons and offering a wonderful view of the Daisen National Park.

The Hall is equipped with numerous telescopes that are available for use. Furthermore, educators are available to assist visitors in their bird-watching. One can also find answers to any questions by accessing the reading materials.



#### Exhibition Room

This room features various seasonal exhibitions using narrative panels, models and bird carvings that center upon wildbirds.



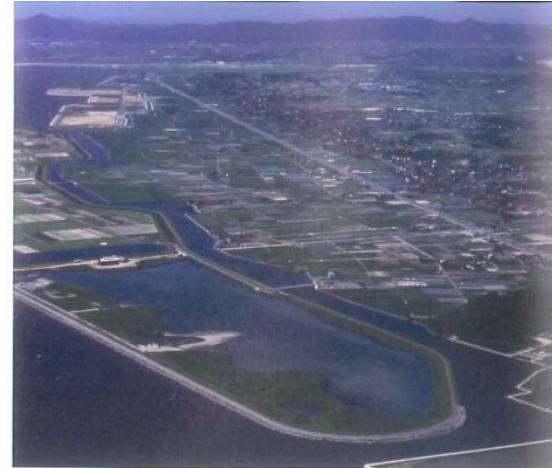
#### Museum Shop

This shop is stocked with items unique to the Waterbird Sanctuary as well as all sorts of interesting gifts.



#### Audiovisual Room

Various images relating to the Waterbird Sanctuary (including the life history of Tundra Swans) are displayed here.



## The last best paradise for Waterbird

### Routes of transportation



### Traffic guide

- By car** 20 minutes from the Yonago Interchange on the Yonago Expressway to the JR Yonago station. 15 minutes from the station to the parking lot and a 2-minute walk from there.
- By bus (Uchi-no-Maru)** 20 minutes from the Yonago station on the Uchihama line bound for Sakai port. 20-minute walk from the Norikoshi bus stop.
- By Airplane** About 20 minutes by car from the Yonago Airport.

### Business hours

April to October  
9:00 to 5:30  
November to March  
7:00 to 5:30 (Weekends and Holidays)  
9:00 to 5:30 (Weekdays)  
January 1st to January 31st (Maybe open)  
9:00 to 5:30 (Jan 1st 7:00am)

### Holidays

- Tuesdays (The following day in the event that Tuesday is a National Holiday)
- The day after holidays
- December 29th to 31th

### Entrance fee

Category	Japanese	Overseas visitor
Adult	310yen	200yen
Aged 16-69		
Annual ticket	1,500yen	

- \*The following persons are exempt from paying the entrance fee (identification is required).
- Persons 70 years of age or older
  - Physically disabled persons
  - Persons who require nursing assistance
  - Children under 15

### Inquiries

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## Activity at Yonago Waterbird Sanctuary

### International Exchange

Ornithologists from Russia join their fellow bird scholars from various countries to enjoy international exchange experiences here.



### Surveys and Studies

Many surveys that involve recording the types and numbers of migratory birds that use the Yonago Waterbird Sanctuary are being carried out. The Environmental Protection Agency strongly supports these surveys of the migratory birds (studies of the landmarks used by different types of birds). In addition, many surveys are carried out concerning the other forms of life that exist in and around the Yonago Waterbird Sanctuary.



### Educational Events

At the Yonago Waterbird Sanctuary, there are many monthly events.

- Nature Observation Society (Monthly)
- Natural Handcrafts Workshop (Monthly)
- Children's Ramsar Club (Monthly)
- Special Summer Camp (Meets frequently during the summer vacation period)

As one can see from above many activities and events are being planned for those who wish to enjoy nature.



### Volunteer Activities

At the Yonago Waterbird Sanctuary there are many different volunteer groups, like the Friends of Yonago Waterbird Sanctuary Association, that look after the grounds by cutting the grass to prepare nesting areas, cleaning up the area, and removing weeds from the decorative flower beds. They also lecture at events explaining the behavior of wild birds.



## Guide map: The Creatures That Live in Yonago Waterbird Sanctuary

### 1 Pintail (Fall and winter)

These ducks can be seen up close at the Nature Center and at the landing. Because the pintail can't dive, it depends in shallow water to feed on underwater food.



### 2 Common Pochard (Fall and winter)

At the Yonago Waterbird Sanctuary it is possible to see flocks of as many as 10,000 birds of these species. They dive under the water incessantly looking for water plants and small shellfish to eat.



### 3 Communities of plants around the edges of the pond (Reeds and Cattails)

These plants help purify the water in the ponds and provide hidden nesting places for various creatures living in the ponds.



### 4 White-fronted Goose (Fall and winter)

These waterbirds have been designated as a natural commemorative species by the national government. From time to time, they take off to find other sources of food, and one can observe them flying in formation.



### 5 Spot-billed Duck (Through the year, but numerous in summer)

At the Yonago Waterbird Sanctuary the only species of duck that breeds in the area is the spot-billed ducks. During the early part of summer, one can observe them swimming in the pond followed by many little ducklings.



### 6 Little Grebe (Through the year)

In July and August, the grebes make floating nests on the surface of the pond where they raise their chicks. They can dive underwater and swim around looking for small fish to feed their chicks.



### 7 Tundra Swan (Winter)

To escape the extreme cold of the tundra ecosystem, swans from Siberia live at Yonago Waterbird Sanctuary from the latter part of October until about the middle of March. During the day, they fly in small groups from Nakaumi Inlet to nearby Anri Plain to find food. Their departure in the morning and return in the evening is a spectacular site to see.



### 8 Great Reed Warbler (Spring to early summer)

These birds busily chirp to each other amongst the reeds. They eat insects and raise their chicks in the reedy areas.



### 10 Great Cormorant (Through the year)

They dive under the water and catch fish to eat then spread their wings to dry them on sandy spits.



### 11 Kingfisher (Through the year)

They cling to the stems of reeds and flit around the pond catching small fish to eat.



### 12 Grey Heron (Through the year)

These are the biggest herons native to Japan. They stand at the water's edge staring down into the water looking for frogs and small fish.

