

Oriental White Stork

Kouno-Tori

Scientific name

Ciconia boyciana

Classification

Ciconiiformes, Ciconiidae

Distribution

China, Korean peninsula, Amur, Ussuri, Japan(reintroduced)



Feeding Habits

They catch and eat small animals such as fish, insects and frogs while slowly walking a shallow of a river and, wetland, paddy field.

Characteristics

The body length is about 1-1.2m and the wingspan is close to 2m. It has long, and robust legs and beak. The body is almost covered white feathers, but partial of the wings such as flight feather is black, the skin around eyes and legs are red.

Behavior and ecology

They nest on branches of a big tree facing wetland and lay 2 to 6 eggs.

Due to habitat destruction and the influence of pesticides, the wild population declined sharply in Japan. The Government designated it as special natural monument in 1956 and started to protect. However, the Japanese population became extinct in the wild in 1971.

On the other hand, some storks were survived in captivity such as a zoo, they were successfully breeding in 1988 and the reintroduction of captive-hatched storks was started from 2005. As of 2020, over 200 wild storks inhabit in Japan.