



A pair of the endangered short-tailed albatross sit together on Nakodo Island in the Ogasawara island chain in the Pacific, south of Tokyo

Rare albatross found breeding in Ogasawara Islands

- 1) The endangered short-tailed albatross is breeding in the Ogasawara Islands south of Tokyo for the first time since the end of the war.
- 2) The finding on Nakodo Island, announced Thursday by the Environment Ministry, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology, is considered significant for a species that once faced the threat of extinction.
- 3) The DNA of a feather from a baby bird found on the island last May has been confirmed to come from a pair of albatrosses on the island.
- 4) Previously, the seabird's breeding areas in Japan had been thought to be confined only to Torishima Island in the Izu chain, also in the Pacific, and the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea.
- 5) The Ogasawaras used to be a habitat for tens of thousands of the seabirds and a major albatross breeding site, but it disappeared in the 1930s due to overhunting caused by demand for its feathers.
- 6) The institute transferred 70 young birds from Torishima Island to Muko Island in the Ogasawara chain from 2008 to 2012 to reintroduce the species. The 6-year-old female of the pair that produced the chick whose feather was tested is one of the birds that was transferred during that period, they said.

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Yamashina Institute for Ornithology:山科鳥類研究所 habitat:生息地

★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. What do you know about Ogasawara Island? If you visit the island, what would you like to see?
2. Why are the albatross an endangered species?
3. Please cite other examples of endangered species.
4. Please cite examples of extinct species.
5. How can we help preserve and protect the endangered species from extinction?
6. "Albatross" is also used in golf. Why do you think they chose the word to the said sport?
7. Make sentences using the following words: endangered, breed, confirm, previously, confine, habitat, overhunting and demand.

小笠原諸島には、戦前は数万羽のアホウドリが生息していたと推計される。採取された羽毛は枕や羽毛布団の材料として明治時代以降さかんに輸出された。アホウドリは天敵の危険の少ない絶海の孤島で子育てをする。寿命は平均 30 年と長い。東邦大学と山階鳥類研究所は絶滅の危機にあるアホウドリを小笠原に再移入させるため、2008 年から 2012 年の 5 年間に 70 羽の幼鳥を伊豆諸島の鳥島から 350 キロ離れた小笠原諸島の聳（むこ）島へ移住させた。この再移入計画は、鳥島の火山活動から貴重なアホウドリを保護するためでもある。