

A stopover for waterfowl flying between East Asia and Australia. Also serves as a recreation site for locals

Manko

Tidal Flat, Mangrove Forest

Geographical Coordinates: 26°11'N, 127°41'E / Altitude: -0.5m / Area: 58ha / Major Type of Wetland: Rivermouth tidal flats, mangrove swamps / Designation: Special Protection Area of National Wildlife Protection Area / Municipalities Involved: Tomigusuku City and Naha City, Okinawa Prefecture / Ramsar Designation: May 1999



Aerial View of Manko from the east



Black-faced Spoonbill



Pacific Golden Plover

Principal Features:

Manko is an inland rivermouth tidal flat formed at the confluence of the Kokuba River that flows through Naha City and Noha River that flows through Tomigusuku City in the southern part of Okinawa Island. Although 3km inland from the coast, at low tide a maximum area of 47ha is exposed as a mud flat.

Along the bank, there are 11ha of mangrove forest such as *Kandelia candel*, *Rhizophora stylosa*, and *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*. In Japan, mangrove forests are found only in the Southwest Islands, including Okinawa. Locals appreciate and enjoy the lake as a valuable natural feature located in the heart of the capital of Okinawa.

Important Area for Waterfowl:

Rich in fish and benthos including crab and nereidae, typical of brackish water tidal flats, the site is an important staging area for waterfowl. Major birds seen here are shorebirds such as the Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, and Curlew *Numenius arquata*, and rare species including the Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*

and common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* can also be observed. The area is a part of the Waterbird Site Network based on the Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Recreation Site for Locals:

Historically, Manko, which is located close to the heart of Naha City, has functioned as an important port. Surrounded by a few gardens, the lake is quite popular among locals as a place for recreation. Over the tidal flat run two crossing bridges on which cars cross constantly. The bridges allow people to observe closely living things in the tidal flat. In addition, the Manko Waterbird and Wetland Center was established by the Ministry of the Environment as a focal point for activities such as the conservation of Manko, research study, and environmental education, among others.

[Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*] A heron with a flat black bill, a black face and a white body. Its height is about 74cm. It catches crustacea living in mud by inserting its bill vertically into the water and shaking its head. The species breeds in the southern part

of China and some areas of Southeast Asia, of which about ten visit Manko in winter. The entire population is said to be only over one thousand in the world.

Contact Information:

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