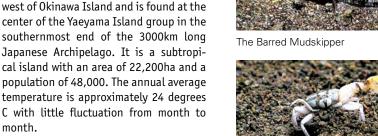
Estuarine Tidal Flat, Mangrove Forest

Geographical Coordinates: 24°23'N, 124°08'E / Altitude: 0m / Area: 157ha / Major Type of Wetland: Estuarine tidal flat, mangrove forest / Designation: Special Area of National Wildlife Protection Area, Special Protection Zone of National Park / Municipalities Involved: Ishigaki City, Okinawa Prefecture / Ramsar Designation: November 2005 / Ramsar Criteria: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7

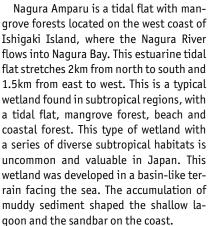


Extensive mangroves in the tidal flat





Fiddler Crab



Mangroves and Biodiversity:

month.

Mangroves are found only in limited regions in Japan. Nagura Amparu is one of the major mangrove habitats in Japan with species in the family Rhizophoraceae characterized by their stilt roots and respiratory roots, such as Bruguiera gymnorhiza, Lumnitzera racemosa, Rhizophara mucronata, and Avicennia marina.

The tidal flat is a habitat for a variety of benthos, fish fry and crustaceans such

as lugworms and mud shrimps. Especially, shrimps and crabs are abundant including a number of endemic rare species. The species here are also a source of inspiration for locals. The behaviors of some crabs are humorously personified in a folk song.

A Stopover Point for Migratory Birds:

Supporting a rich feeding ground and safe environment, Nagura Amparu is an important stopover point for a variety of migratory shorebirds including Blackfaced Spoonbill. This wetland is also home to the Crested Serpent Eagle, and Ryukyu Scops Owl.

[Crested Serpent Eagle Spilornis cheela perplexus It is an eagle with a body length of approximately 55cm, almost the same as that of the Common Buzzard. It is widely found throughout the tropical and subtropical zones of India, Southeast Asia, Taiwan, and the southern Ryukyu Islands. In Japan, it is a resident bird



View of the Nagura Amparu from the east



Crested Serpent Eagle

distributed only in Iriomote Island and Ishigaki Island, the northernmost habitat of this species. Although it feeds mainly on snakes, it also preys on the abundant crabs in Nagura Amparu. It is a top predator in the ecosystem here.

Contact Information:

Ishigaki City Office http://www.city.ishigaki.okinawa.jp/

