

Kejo-numa

Water Storage Area, Permanent Freshwater Lake

Geographical coordinates: 38°37'N, 141°57'E / Altitude: 25.9m / Area: 34ha / Major type of wetland: Water storage area, permanent freshwater lake / Designation: Special Protection Area of National Wildlife Protection Area / Municipalities involved: Osaki City, Miyagi Prefecture / Ramsar designation: October 2008 / Ramsar Criteria: 2, 6 / EAAFP Flyway Network Site



View of Kejo-numa from the south



Full view of Kejo-numa from the Dam Management Office

General Overview:

The Kitakami Plain in the north of Miyagi Prefecture in northern Honshu is a wet lowland formed by rivers such as the Kitakami River running south from Iwate Prefecture, the Hasama River that runs from the borders of Akita and Yamagata Prefectures to the east, and the Eai River. Repeated floods deposited fertile soil to the area, rendering it a productive rice field.

The Tajiri River, a tributary of the Eai River, is a narrow river that also frequently floods, because it runs through poorly drained lowland.

Kejo-numa is a dammed lake constructed for irrigation and the flood control of the Tajiri River. The lake is situated approximately 5km northwest of the center of Osaki City and has a circumference of approximately 4km. This dammed lake, Kajo-numa was completed in 1995 by constructing a 300-year-old agricultural reservoir based on a natural lake that originally existed. There are no natural

streams flowing into the lake; it is fed only by rainfall, spring water, and flooded water through the conduit.

Favorable Habitat for Birds:

Kejo-numa is dominated by aquatic plant communities such as the lotus and *Trapa japonica*.

The lake is surrounded by gentle hills and has an extensive rice paddy field to the southeast, which is a major wintering habitat for waterfowl in Japan. The dam management office is located at the southeast end of the dam embankment. A tourist information center is attached to the office, and visitors can enjoy a panoramic view of the swamp from the second floor. There are two more Ramsar sites in this region: Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies 12km to the east of Kejo-numa, and Izu-numa and Uchi-numa 15km to northeast of Kejo-numa.

A Lake of Bean Goose:

Since Kejo-numa does not completely freeze even in midwinter, it is a good roosting site for a number of waterfowl



Bean Goose and Whooper Swan



Greater White-fronted Goose taking off from Kejo-numa

including Greater White-fronted Goose and Bean Goose. In particular, Bean Goose winter over 1% of the East Asian population, and Kejo-numa is a key wintering site in Japan. Moreover, Aleutian Cackling Goose once faced extinction, but international conservation efforts, including those in Japan, have led to their recovery. Currently, approximately 2,000 birds use Kejo-numa and Kabukuri-numa as their wintering sites every year.

Public Participation:

Osaki City, NGOs and local residents have been working to prepare environmental education zones to control specified invasive alien species and to restore and maintain wetlands and surrounding satoyama environments.

Contact Information:

Osaki City Office

<http://www.city.osaki.miyagi.jp/>

