

Fujimae-higata

Geographical Coordinates: 35°04'N, 136°50'E / Altitude: -4.0-0.8m / Area: 323ha / Major Type of Wetland: Estuarine tidal flat / Designation: Special Protection Area of National Wildlife Protection Area / Municipality Involved: Nagoya City and Tobishima Village, Aichi Prefecture / Ramsar Designation: November 2002 / Ramsar Criteria: 2, 4, 5 / EAAFP Flyway Network Site



Fujimae-higata at low tide



Aerial view of Fujimae-higata from the south

General Overview:

Located at the head of Ise Bay facing the Pacific Ocean is Nagoya City, Japan's third largest city, next to Tokyo and Osaka. Numerous rivers such as the Kiso, Nagara, and Ibi flow into this Bay, which created a number of vast tidal flats along the shore. However, most of these tidal flats have been reclaimed one after another for the development of port facilities, factories and farmlands. The exception was the Fujimae-higata, stretching at the estuary of the Shonai and Nikko rivers in southwestern Nagoya City. Although its isolation made it a crucial stopover point for migratory birds, the area was slated to become a landfill site to manage the rapid increase of wastes in the region. What resulted was a local campaign to save the tidal flat, which soon gained national attention. The plan was withdrawn in 1999,

and Fujimae-higata was designated as a Ramsar site in 2001.

The Tidal Flat and Waste Management Issues:

In order to protect the tidal flat, residents of Nagoya City voluntarily worked for waste reduction. Fujimae-higata was saved by the joint efforts by the private sector, local people and government. Not only is Fujimae-higata important for migratory birds, but it also serves as a symbol of the transition from a consumer society to a recycling-based one.

Flyway:

Although no vegetation is visible at Fujimae-higata, it abounds with benthos such as lugworms and shellfish, an important source of food for migratory shorebirds. This tidal flat serves as a stopover site, and occupies a vital part in the life-cycle of these shorebirds which breed in

Estuarine Tidal Flat



Bar-tailed Godwit

Siberia and winter in Oceania. It is said that the tidal flat regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbirds.

[Dunlin *Calidris alpina*] This is a shorebird approximately 21cm in length with a somewhat long beak, short neck, and stooped posture. As it has white wing bars, a beautiful contrasting color of white flashes when they turn their direction while flying in flocks.

[Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*] Many species of shorebirds have long beaks to insert into holes in tidal flats to catch crabs. For example, the Black-tailed Godwit has a straight beak, the Curlew has a down-turned beak, and the Bar-tailed Godwit has a slightly upturned beak.

Contact Information:

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