

# MATERIALS FOR THE SWAN SYMPOSIUM

Sapporo, 1980

The 26th Annual Executive Board Meeting of the International Waterfowl Research Bureau (IWRB), held at the invitation of the Environment Agency of Japan at Sapporo, Hokkaido from 18-22 1980.

Symposia on Swan, four members of "The Swan Society of Japan" sent up the treatises.

Upon this introduce the treatises of Makoto Tamada and Kiyoshi Honda.

1980年2月18～22日札幌で開かれたIWRB代表者会議におけるハクチョウのシンポジウムの際、日本白鳥の会有志4名は英文の論文集をまとめ、参加者全員に配布した。

このうち本号では玉田誠(北海道)と本田清(新潟)の二名の論文を紹介する。

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THE WILD SWANS AT LAKE TOFUTSU-KO, JAPAN  
AN OUTLINE OF SUBSTANCE

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BY

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I. Lake Tofutsu-ko and the wild swans

1. Lake Tofutsu-ko

Lake Tofutsu-ko is one of many lakes formed from the sea that dot the sea-coast of Okhotsk, see Figure 1. It has a width of approximately 10 kilometers and it is approximately 900 hectares, National Road 244 and National Railroad Line Semmo Run over the land between the lake and the sea-coast. Land surrounding the lake approximately 2051 hectares, since 1963 has been designated as a wildlife protection area.

2. Kinds of wild swans at Lake Tofutsu-ko

The main species of wild swans at Lake Tofutsu-ko are WHOOPER SWANS, sometimes EASTERN BEWICK'S SWANS are stopped, but this is very rare.

3. Wild swan's relationship to Fishermen

Because the fishermen inside the borders of Lake Tofutsu-ko take up much fish and travel much across the lake. They have an influence in determining when and where the swans will do their feeding. Though it changes often the swans feeding areas are fairly well determined.

## II. Fall through Winter

### 1. Returning from north

Wild swans returning from north and those staying through winter, see Table 1. This shows wild swans returning from the north annually arrive around October and number 10 birds. From October 25 through November 10 a period one day 1000 ~ 3000 swans arrive. From this point on the number of swans returning fluctuates until the middle of December when the ice begins to frost on the Lake. At this point birds returning from the north stop at the Lake for a short period only and then resume their flight southward. These swans number around 500.

### 2. Tagged swans

Where the swans, leaving Lake Tofutsu-ko, go for the winter is not clearly known recently much work has been done on tagging swans. We found that the tagged swans (1C-15, 1C-20, 1C-11 and 1C-22 etc.) leaving Lake Tofutsu-ko usually stay at Aomori District Kominato City. See Figure 2, we conjecture or guess that most swans stay at Kominato City during the winter months.

### 3. The scouting plane's swans

In recent years between 40 ~ 100 swans have been known to stay in the outskirts of Lake Tofutsu-ko in its nearby marshes and streams. This year as in recent years this number has been increasing. These wild swans are seen also in several winters where there is no opening in the Lake's Ice. The sighting of these swans is called "The scouting plane's swans".

### III. Spring

#### 1. Gathering

Lake Tofutsu-ko thaws at different times every year. Some Years at the beginning of January and other years in a large relationship between the disappearing of ice barges and thawing of Lake Tofutsu-ko. As ice melts so does the number of swans raise. The peak of swans arriving is around April 20 and numbers 4000 swans.

#### 2. Feeding

In recent years there have been many wild swans fed directly from humans. In order to feed the swans we must take into account.

- 1) Where there is no ice.
- 2) How large and where the swans living area ice.
- 3) How many swans.

Many tourists bring food, for instance bread, which is not appropriate for the wild swans.

#### 3. Homebound trip to north

When birds or wild swans return north, it is called "HOKKI-KO" (homebound trip to north) in Japanese. Most wild swans return north (probably Siberia) by the end April. Most leave Lake Tofutsu-ko early in the morning and range in groups between 400 ~ 1500. Sometimes there are up to 2000. After May other than in unusual circumstances. Where a family or single birds remain all swans usually have left Lake Tofutsu-ko (Figure 3 shows the count of swans in on years time). By the middle of May all swans have gone. Also notice the two peaks in one SWAN'S YEAR.

#### IV. Conclusion

We conclude that in the fall wild swans (particularly WHOOPER SWANS). Heading south to scout the weather first come to Lake Tofutsu-ko, (EASTERN BEWICK'S SWANS at Lake Kutcharo-ko Soya) and its surrounding lakes and areas also when swans are heading north. Lake Tofutsu-ko is one of the last gathering base in Japan.

As we think about the natural protection of native and wild birds and animals. We realize that we must work diligently to preserve the natural balance between man the wild swans and the environment.

#### \* Acknowledgements

Finally I would like to express my sincer gratitude to Kitahama Junior High School for offering overvation data on Lake Tofutsu-ko and also to Dr. Sigeru Matsui and Noboru Yamauchi for supplying us with their observation data they gathered at and Lake Kucharo-ko.

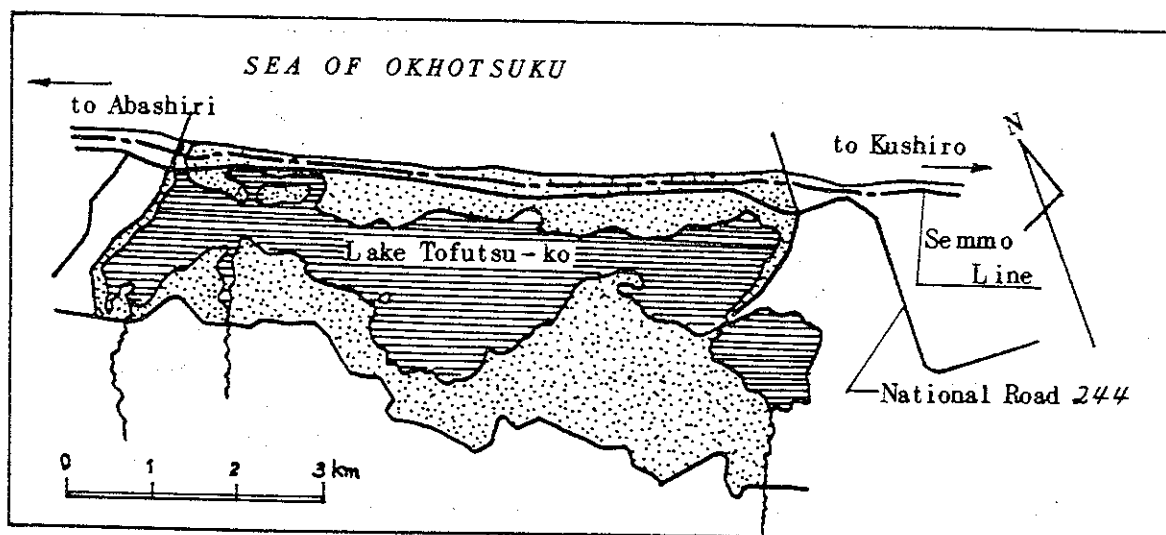


Figure I Lake Tofutsu-ko and its wildlife protection area

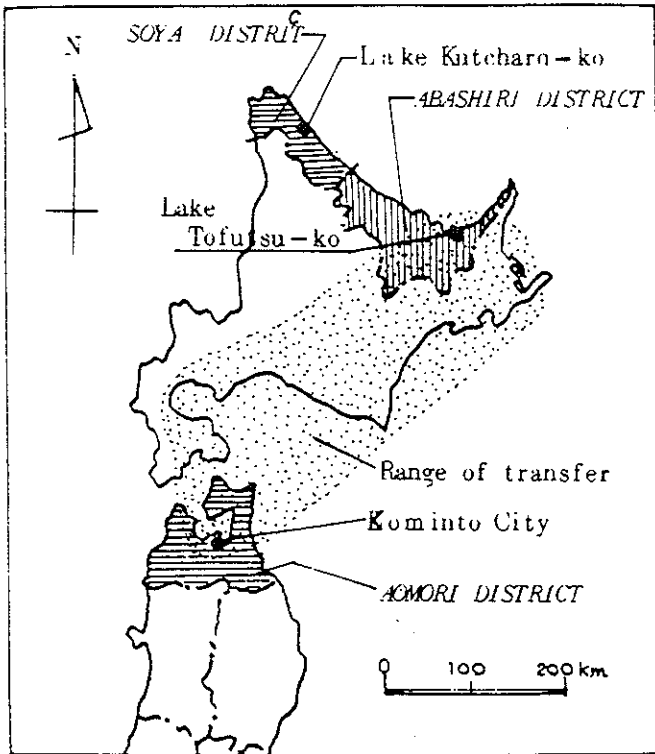


Figure II Relationship of Lake Tofutsu-ko and Aomori district Kominato City

年	月	日	飛来数	
			Adu	imm
1967	Oct.	14	3	0
1968	Oct.	19	2	0
1969	Oct.	11	6	
1970	Oct.	1	1	0
1971	Oct.	8	2	0
1972	Oct.	15	2	5
1973	Oct.	5	1	0
1974	Oct.	15	2	1
1975	Oct.	6	5	0
1976	Oct.	11	7	2
1977	Oct.	7	2	1
1978	Sep.	30	1	0
1979	Oct.	9	2	2

Table I Datum of first come flying from north

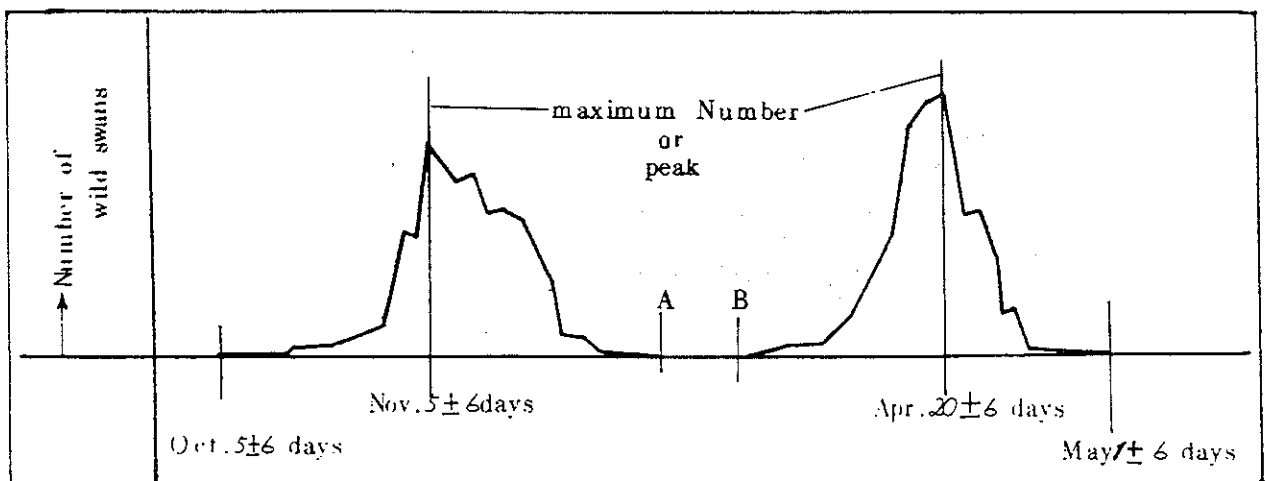


Figure III The count of swans in on years time  
(By the year, B is related to A)