

JAPAN

RAMSAR CONVENTION CAME INTO FORCE 1980

NUMBER OF RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED (at 31 August 2005) 13

AREA OF RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED (at 31 August 2005) 84,089 ha

ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION Wildlife Division,
Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment

RAMSAR DESIGNATION IS:

Complete in 1 IBA

Partial in 12 IBAs

Lacking in 112 IBAs

Japan is a mountainous country with very densely populated coastal lowlands. The largest freshwater wetlands are found on Hokkaido, and the most extensive tidal flats are mostly on Kyushu and other islands in the south of the country. Several globally threatened wetland-dependent species have important populations in Japan: wetlands on Hokkaido support Steller's Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus pelagicus*, Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis* and Blakiston's Fish-owl *Ketupa blakistoni*, the reedbeds on Honshu and Shikoku support an important population of Marsh Grassbird *Megalurus pryeri*, while paddy fields at Izumi-Takaono (IBA 151) in south Kyushu support half of the global population of White-naped Crane *Grus vipio* and more than 70% of the global population of Hooded Crane *G. monacha*. The small islands around Japan support large numbers of nesting seabirds, and the breeding populations of two threatened species, Short-tailed Albatross *Phoebastria albatrus* and Japanese Murrelet *Synthliboramphus*

wumizusume, are virtually confined to the Japanese islands. Three waterbird species (according to the Ramsar definition) breed only in Japan, Japanese Night Heron *Gorsachius goisagi*, Okinawa Rail *Gallirallus okinawae* and Ryukyu Woodcock *Scolopax mira*, but these species are more closely associated with forest habitats than wetlands. The IWRB Japan Committee compiled a national wetland inventory in 1989, and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan compiled a list of 500 important wetlands in Japan in 2001.

Thirteen Ramsar Sites have been designated in Japan, all of which overlap with IBAs, including six on Hokkaido, six on Honshu and one on the Nansei Shoto islands. An additional 112 potential Ramsar Sites have been identified in the country, including 20 on Hokkaido, 56 on Honshu, nine on the Izu, Ogasawara and Iwo islands, four on Shikoku, 16 on Kyushu and seven on the Nansei Shoto islands.

Summary of Important Bird Areas that contain areas that qualify as Ramsar Sites in Japan.

Ramsar designation of IBA complete (1 IBA)

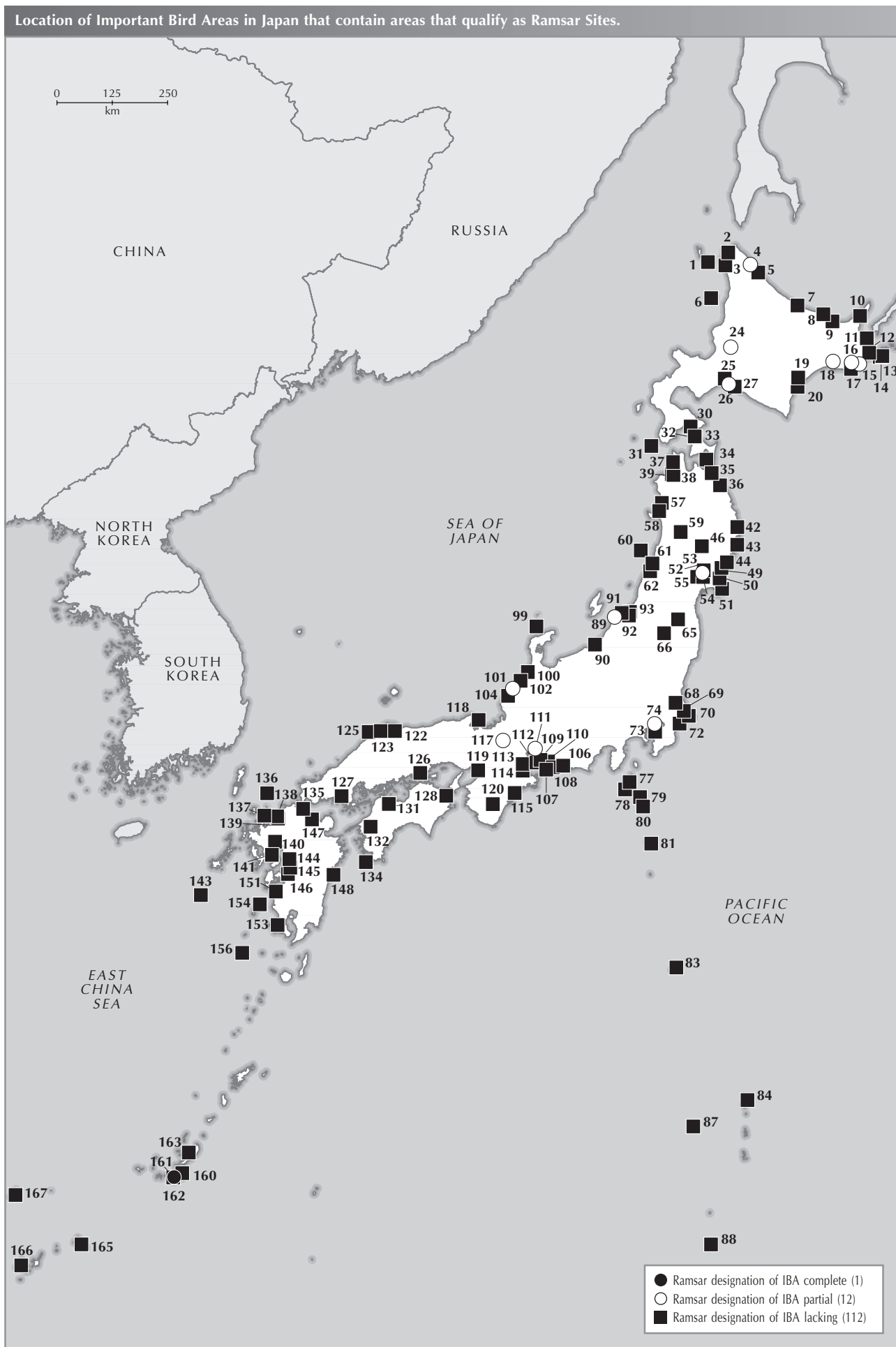
IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar Site name	Ramsar Site area (ha)	Ramsar criteria			
					2	4	5	6
161	Manko tidal flat	58	Manko	58	✓	✓		✓

Ramsar designation of IBA partial (12 IBAs)

IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar Site name	Ramsar Site area (ha)	Ramsar criteria			
					2	4	5	6
4	Lake Kuccharoko	2,803	Kutcharo-ko	1,607		✓	✓	✓
15	Kiritappu marsh, Biwase bay	9,300	Kiritappu-shitsugen	2,504	✓			
16	Lake Akkeshiko, Bekanbeushi marsh	20,000	Akkeshi-ko and Bekambeushi-shitsugen	4,896	✓	✓		✓
18	Kushiro marsh	33,000	Kushiro-shitsugen	7,863	✓			
24	Middle Ishikarigawa basin	19,000	Miyajima-numa	41		✓	✓	✓
26	Lake Utonaiko, Yufutsu plain	7,200	Utonai-ko	510		✓		✓
53	Izunuma and nearby lakes	1,800	Izu-numa & Uchi-numa	559		✓	✓	✓
74	Inner Tokyo bay	16,000	Yatsu-higata	40		✓	✓	✓
89	Lake Sakata	251	Sakata	76		✓		✓
101	Katano-Kamoike	100	Katano-kamoike	10	✓	✓		✓
111	Fujimae tidal flat	770	Fujimae-higata	323		✓		✓
117	Lake Biwako	72,224	Biwa-ko	65,602		✓	✓	✓

Ramsar designation of IBA lacking (112 IBAs)

IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar criteria			
			2	4	5	6
1	Rishirito island	17,544		✓		✓
2	Lake Koetoi-Onuma	830		✓		✓
3	Sarobetsu marsh	15,000		✓		✓
5	Esashi, Menashidomari	5		✓		✓
6	Teurito island	546		✓	✓	✓
7	Lake Komukeko and Lake Shibunotsunaiko	1,516		✓		✓
8	Lake Notoroko and Lake Abashiriko	16,000	✓	✓		✓
9	Lake Tofutsuko	2,200	✓	✓		✓
10	Shiretoko, Mount Syari-dake	123,000	✓	✓		✓
11	Notsuke bay, Odaito	8,300	✓	✓		✓
12	Lake Furenko and nearby wetlands	25,000	✓	✓		✓
13	Tomoshirijima and Chitomoshirijima islets	9		✓		✓
14	Yururito and Moyururito islets	200		✓		✓



Ramsar designation of IBA lacking (112 IBAs) ... continued						
IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar criteria			
			2	4	5	6
17	Daikokujima islet	107		✓	✓	✓
19	Lower Tokachigawa river	10,000	✓	✓		✓
20	Tokachi coastal lakes	5,300	✓	✓		✓
25	Kyu-Osatsunuma	130		✓		✓
27	Mukawa	3,800		✓		✓
30	Hakodate bay, Southern Kameda coast	4,300		✓		✓
31	Matsumaekojima islet	115		✓	✓	✓
32	Bentenjima islet	9		✓	✓	✓
33	Northern Shimokita coast	2,700		✓		✓
34	Mutsu bay	9,800		✓		✓
35	Hotokenuma, Lake Ogawarako and nearby lakes	10,000	✓			
36	Kabushima islet	2		✓	✓	✓
37	Iwakigawa river, Lake Jusanko	2,727	✓			
38	Mawarizeki and Sunazawa reservoir	570		✓		✓
39	Ezogadate reservoir	50		✓		✓
42	Hinodejima islet	8		✓		✓
43	Sanganjima islet	25		✓	✓	✓
44	Tsubakijima and Aomatsushima islets	2		✓		✓
46	Shintsutsumi reservoir	60		✓		✓
49	South Sanriku coast	140		✓		✓
50	Futagojima islets	1		✓		✓
51	Rikuzen Enoshima islets	55		✓		✓
52	Hasamagawa river	10		✓		✓
54	Lake Kabukurinuma	150		✓	✓	✓
55	Lake Kejonuma	351		✓		✓
57	Otomonuma reservoir	60		✓	✓	✓
58	Hachirogata	20,000	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Tamagawa river	44		✓		✓
60	Tobishima and Osyakujima islands	249		✓	✓	✓
61	Mogamigawa estuary	1,732		✓	✓	✓
62	Lakes Oyama Kamiike and Shimoike	970		✓	✓	✓
65	Abukumagawa river	660		✓		✓
66	Lake Inawashiroko	10,933		✓		✓
68	Lake Kasumigaura, Ukisima	17,000	✓	✓		✓
69	Tonegawa floodplain	2,300	✓	✓		✓
70	Tonegawa estuary, Hazaki coast	1,200		✓		✓
72	Kujukuri coast	19,000		✓		✓



Kushiro marsh (IBA 18) supports a significant proportion of the Japanese population of Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis*, and part of the IBA has been designated as a Ramsar Site. (PHOTO: SIMBA CHAN)

Important Bird Areas and potential Ramsar Sites in Asia – Japan

Ramsar designation of IBA lacking (112 IBAs) ... continued						
IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar criteria			
			2	4	5	6
73	Banzu and Futtsu tidal flat	2,400		✓		✓
77	Nijijima and Shikinejima Islands	2,686	✓	✓		✓
78	Kozushima island	1,848	✓	✓		✓
79	Miyakejima island	5,550	✓	✓		✓
80	Mikurajima island	2,058	✓	✓		✓
81	Hachijojima island	6,948	✓	✓		✓
83	Torishima island	453	✓	✓		✓
84	Mukojima islands	586	✓			
87	Nishinoshima islet	25		✓		✓
88	Iwo islands	3,255		✓		✓
90	Lake Asahiike and Lake Unoike	80		✓		✓
91	Lake Toyanogata	264		✓		✓
92	Lake Hyoko	310		✓	✓	✓
93	Lake Fukushima	163		✓		✓
99	Nanatsujima islets	24	✓			
100	Kahokugata, Takamatsu coast	2,700	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Komaiko coast	170		✓		✓
104	Lower Kuzuryugawa river, Sakai plain	7,500		✓		✓
106	Lake Hamanako	7,800		✓	✓	✓
107	Ikawazu	870		✓		✓
108	Shiokawa tidal flat	900		✓		✓
109	Yahagigawa estuary	1,400		✓		✓
110	Asai-shinden fishpond	6		✓		✓
112	Unoyama	331		✓		✓
113	Anogawa and Shitogawa estuaries, Toyotsuura	160		✓		✓
114	Kumozugawa, Atagogawa and Kongogawa estuaries	1,200		✓		✓
115	Kii Nagashima islets	7,452	✓			
118	Kanmurijima and Kutsujima islets	471	✓	✓	✓	
119	Osaka Nanko	19		✓		✓
120	Futatsuno reservoir	230		✓		✓
122	Lake Nakaumi	10,000		✓	✓	✓
123	Lake Shinjiko	9,639		✓	✓	✓
125	Fumishima	1		✓		✓
126	Lake Kojimako and Lake Abeike	1,000			✓	✓
127	Kumage-Yatsushiro	1,038	✓			
128	Lower Yoshinogawa river	3,800		✓		✓
131	Kamogawa estuary	470	✓	✓		✓
132	Kanogawa reservoir	1,216		✓		✓
134	Seinan islands	1,200	✓			
135	Sone tidal flat	660	✓	✓		✓
136	Okinoshima islets	97	✓	✓		✓
137	Eboshijima islet	1	✓	✓		✓
138	Tsukuejima islets	5	✓			
139	Hakata bay	9,000	✓	✓		✓
140	Inner Ariake bay	19,000	✓	✓		✓
141	Isahaya bay	4,600		✓	✓	✓
143	Danjo islands	416	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Shirakawa estuary	1,200	✓	✓		✓
145	Hikawa estuary, Shiranui	1,300	✓	✓		✓
146	Kumakawa estuary	1,200	✓	✓		✓
147	Nakatsu and Usa tidal flats	3,800	✓	✓		✓
148	Birojima islet	8	✓	✓		✓
151	Izumi-Takaono	842	✓	✓		✓
153	Manosegawa estuary	100	✓	✓		✓
154	Koshikijima islands	11,910	✓			
156	Kusagaki islets	50		✓	✓	✓
160	Awase tidal flat	550		✓		✓
162	Yone and Gushi tidal flats	180	✓	✓		✓
163	Okinawa coastal islets	100		✓		✓
165	Miyako islands	20,297		✓		✓
166	Yaeyama islands	58,345		✓		✓
167	Senkaku islands	630	✓	✓		✓

Summary of the occurrence of globally threatened wetland-dependent bird species within the selected IBAs in Japan.

IBA	Short-tailed Albatross <i>Phoebastria albatrus</i> VU	Black-footed Albatross <i>Phoebastria nigripes</i> EN	Black-faced Spoonbill <i>Platalea minor</i> EN	Baikal Teal <i>Anas formosa</i> VU	Steller's Sea-eagle <i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i> VU	White-naped Crane <i>Grus vipio</i> VU	Hooded Crane <i>Grus monacha</i> VU	Red-crowned Crane <i>Grus japonensis</i> EN	Swinhoe's Rail <i>Coturnicops exquisitus</i> VU	Saunders's Gull <i>Larus saundersi</i> VU	Japanese Murrelet <i>Synthliboramphus wumizusume</i> VU	Blakiston's Fish-owl <i>Ketupa blakistoni</i> EN	Styan's Grasshopper-warbler <i>Locustella pleskei</i> VU	Marsh Grassbird <i>Megalurus pryori</i> VU	Total
8								✓							1
9								✓							1
10					✓							✓			2
11					✓			✓							2
12					✓			✓							2
15					✓			✓							2
16					✓			✓							2
18								✓							1
19								✓							1
20								✓							1
35									✓						1
37										✓				✓	2
58														✓	1
68														✓	1
69														✓	1
77											✓				2
78											✓				2
79											✓				2
80											✓				2
81											✓		✓		2
83	✓	✓									✓				3
84		✓									✓				1
99											✓				1
100				✓											1
101				✓											1
115											✓		✓		2
118											✓				1
127							✓								1
131										✓					1
134											✓				1
135										✓					1
136											✓		✓		2
137											✓				1
138											✓				2
139			✓							✓			✓		3
140										✓					1
143											✓		✓		2
144			✓												1
145			✓							✓					2
146										✓					1
147										✓					1
148											✓		✓		2
151						✓	✓								2
153			✓												1
154													✓		1
161			✓												1
162			✓												1
167	✓	✓													2
Total	2	3	6	2	5	1	2	9	1	7	15	1	12	5	