

Tentative translation based by automatic translation

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Petition

Dear Chiba Governor Kensaku Morita

From Japanese Bird Banding Association, President Akira Chiba

Petition for seeking Gyotoku birding observatory reopen

Japanese bird banding Association (hereinafter, the Association for short) is an association that has been founded in February 1986, consists of members (about 390 people) who carry out an investigation of wild birds. The members participate in and contribute as volunteers to bird banding that the Ministry of the Environment entrusts to Yamashina Institute for Ornithology. The investigation, including the migratory birds in Japan and overseas, to study their life, ecology, such as annual change in number of birds, the outcome has been used to understand the biological diversity in actual situation, promote bird protection activities, widely in bird flu-related epidemiological surveys, etc. In addition, the Association is carried out to hold a workshop and publish scientific journals, we are working to share with the public awareness of the information.

This year (2016) in December, the Association has plan to hold the 30th Anniversary meeting in Ichikawa City with the cooperation of the Association members of Gyotoku Wildlife Reserve and Gyotoku birding observatory. Recently, in contact with the news of Gyotoku birding observatory closure, the Association again recognizes the role and loss of the observatory with deep concern, comes to deliver the demands as follows.

As you know, Gyotoku Wildlife Sanctuary, when the wetlands called Shinhama to the high-growth period of the 1970s has been reclaimed by the development, "protect the Niihama meeting," the center and the nature conservation movement and of the regional development so to speak, is was established protected areas as a compromise. Gyotoku birding building, which was built in it, to get to know the birds and natural attractions, as a place of environmental learning, is used by many organizations, such as elementary school, recreation and relaxation for the bird lovers just how local residents It has also been popular as a place. In addition, Gyotoku Wildlife Sanctuary is the first reserve where positive environmental maintenance has been carried out in

Japan, and it has been a model of “Sanctuary”, the area for protecting wildlife. In addition, the use of this facility is not limited to general customers, in October of 1980, when the King of Spain and his wife have been coming to Japan as a state guest, at the time of the Crown Prince and his wife (now the Emperor and Empress), There is also that it has been your visitors along with the Prince Hitachi Highness. In 1982, we also received a royal visit of Emperor Showa honored.

Gyotoku Bird Observatory and Gyotoku Bird Reserve also play an important role on the academic research. Bird ringing is continued for many years in Gyotoku, and due to the work, the first record in Japan; European robin, same in Chiba prefecture; Bearded tit. The staff of the NPO Friends of Gyotoku Bird Observatory, caught and ringed some gulls. Such labeled individuals are observed in various locations in Japan and abroad, including the Arctic Ocean coastal areas of Russia. Also notice of interesting habit, many of them are continued to returning to Gyotoku for many years.

Gyotoku Bird Reserve has no source of freshwater without rain. Then the first trial to lead the wastewater to shallow pond like paddy, to realize to get water for the creatures, and the water purification at the same time. Restoration of wetlands lead to reproduction of the original landscape of Gyotoku, is becoming diverse biota is nurtured.

Referring to the wild bird hospital as a related facility, the hospital is putting the greater efforts to protect the injured birds and its work is the highest level not only in the Kanto area but also throughout Japan. In addition, Gyotoku wild bird reserve is located adjacent to Shinhama Kamoba, a hunting ground for the Imperial Household Agency where is a site of significant cultural importance because the traditional duck hunting of technology is inherited.

As mentioned above, there is no doubt about the contribution and importance of Gyotoku birding observatory to the local community and wildlife protection. The observatory is the top class facility in Japan as the basis of wild bird conservation, scientific research, public awareness and recreation to citizens. If the observatory would be abolished, it is a great loss not only for Chiba Pref and Ichikawa City, but also for throughout Japan. For these reasons, we strongly demand that the observatory would not be closed, and the building should get the anti-earthquake reinforcement or be replaced.

Sincerely yours,

Akira Chiba

President, Japan bird banding Association