

History of Toki Protection in Japan

- 1926: A magazine in Niigata, the Niigata Tensanshi notes that the Toki went extinct due to over-hunting.
- 1929: A Toki was mistakenly killed in Noto.
- 1931: 2 Toki birds were found on Sado.
- 1934: Toki designated as a protected species.
- 1952: Toki designated as a nationally protected species.
- 1953: Sado Toki Conservation Committee was established.
- 1954: Niigata Prefecture designates Sado as Toki's sanctuary.
- 1959: Feeding programs started in Niibo and Ryotsu.
Niibo Toki Conservation Committee established.
- 1960: Toki designated an internationally protected bird.
- 1965: Japanese government nationalizes Toki habitat as a national forest.
Toki designated as Niigata's prefectural bird.
- 1967: Sado Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Center completed in Niibo (Shimizudaira) in a mountainous area near their natural habitat.
- 1968: Kintaro Uji captures a female ibis "Kin" in Mano and begins to raise it.
- 1971: Ryotsu Toki Conservation Club established.
- 1975: Toki conservation project moved from the Agency for Cultural Affairs to the Ministry of the Environment.
- 1978: 3 Toki eggs taken from their wild nest and brought to Ueno Zoo for incubation, but were found to be unfertilized.
- 1981: All of the 5 wild ibises on Sado captured and brought to the Conservation Center for breeding (the number was 6 including Kin), but attempts to pair them were unsuccessful.
- 1985: A male Toki named Hoa-Hoa borrowed from China.
- 1990: A male Toki named Midori moved to Beijing Zoo.
- 1993: Toki designated as a national endangered species according to the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- 1994: A male Toki Ron-Ron and a female Toki Fon-Fon borrowed from China.
- 1999: China presented a pair of ibises, Yo-Yo (male) and Yang-Yang (female) to Japan.
A chick named Yu-Yu hatched following the successful artificial breeding in Japan.
- 2000: China presented a female Toki called Mei-Mei to Japan.
Two chicks named Shin-Shin (male) and Ai-Ai (female) were raised.
Since then, the breeding program has been successful and the number of Toki increased dramatically.
- 2003: The last native Japanese Toki called Kin dies at the age of 36 on October 10.
- 2004: Breeding in the wild occurs for the first time (one chick) and has occurred every year since.
- 2007: 5 ibises released into an acclimation cage at the Reintroduction Center on July 10 and began training.
China presents Toki called Huayang and Yishui to Japan.
- 2008: On September 25 10 Toki were released after training, and took to the Sado skies again after 27 years.
- 2009: 19 Toki released into the wild in September.
- 2010: 6 pairs of Toki created nests and laid eggs in the wild for the first time in 31 years, but they didn't hatch.
- 2011: 7pairs of Toki created nests and laid eggs in the wild, but they didn't hatch, 18 Toki were released into the wild in March, and then another 18 were released in September. The total number of Toki released reached 78.
- 2012: A Toki chick was born in the wild for the first time in 36 years and it left the nest for the first time in 38 years. (8 chicks were born from 3 pairs of adult Toki.)
13 ibises were released in June, and 17 were released in September. The total number of released Toki reached 108.



▲ (Toki in the wild)
Photo was taken in Katanoo, Ryotsu in 1977.



▲ (Former Toki Protection Center)
The center existed in Shimizudaira, Niibo. Photo was taken in 1984.



▲ (First release of Toki into the wild)
10 birds were released into the wild in September, 2008.

