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## A record of the Hooded Crane in Fukui, 1994

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Hooded Cranes *Grus monacha* breed in Russia and China, and winter in Japan, Korea, China and Myanmar (Archibald et al. 1982, Johnsgard 1983). In Japan, about 8,000 birds winter at Izumi, Kagoshima Pref. and Yashiro, Yamaguchi Pref., and there are recorded several sites where cranes visit temporarily in Kyushu, Shikoku and western Chugoku Area (Ohsako 1994). In Fukui, Hooded Cranes are rare birds; they were recorded in 1970 and 1980 (Fukui Prefecture 1982). However, one crane was recorded in Fukui, 1994.

One Hooded Crane was observed in Sakai Town, Sakai County, Fukui Pref. (36° 11' N, 136° 9' E) on 12 and 13 Dec. 1994. The crane was an adult bird, having slaty-gray body with whitish feathers and white neck (Photo 1). The crane was observed to feed rice on harvested paddyfields near riverside of Kuzuryu River without snow.



Photo 1. An adult Hooded Crane observed on 12 Dec. 1994, in Sakai Town, Fukui.

写真1. 1994年12月12日に福井県坂井郡坂井町の九頭竜川の河川敷で観察されたナベヅルの成鳥.

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Hooded Cranes are still in danger of extinction throughout their Asian range (Archibald et al. 1981, Mountfort 1988) and are designated as vulnerable species (Japan Environment Agency 1991, IUCN 1993), which means that the cranes should be conserved. Some problems for wintering cranes are recognized: infectious disease among cranes under crowded conditions, crop damage by cranes and human disturbance of the cranes. The best plan for crane conservation is to establish new wintering sites in Japan (Higuchi 1991, Ohsako 1994). Therefore, the wintering status of Hooded Cranes should be monitored in Fukui.

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#### 1994年福井県で観察されたナベヅル

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1994年12月12日, 13日に福井県坂井郡坂井町の九頭竜川の河川敷でナベヅル *Grus monacha*の成鳥1羽を観察した。刈り取りの終わった水田に下りており, 稲の2番穂を採食していた。ナベヅルは, 日本においても国際的にも絶滅の危惧されている種であるが, 越冬地では, 集中化による伝染病の蔓延, 農作物への被害や人間による攪乱が問題になっている。これを解決するには, 新しい越冬地を開拓することが必要とされている。福井県においても本種の渡来状況について, さらに情報を収集する必要があるであろう。

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