短 報 Short Notes

A White-naped Crane newly visiting to Hachirogata
in Akita Prefecture, JapanKo Ogasawara, K.¹⁾ and T. Nishide²⁾

It is well known that large number (over 1000 birds in 1975) of the White-naped Crane (*Grus vipio* Pallas) have visited to the Arasaki, Kagoshima Prefecture (Bunka-chô 1977), and a small number of the above species to the Yashiro, Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan. Moreover, we have the records that a few individuals of the above Crane appeared temporarily in the several places; in Hokkaido (1871 Chitose), Honshu and Kyushu. But we have never seen the above Crane in any places of the Tôhoku District (Ornith. Soci. Jap. 1974, Kiyoshu 1978, Yamashina 1978).

In the Arasaki, the many wintering White-naped Cranes have fed their foods in the rice paddies and wetlands etc. from the middle October to the early March. All of the Crane have left from the Arasaki to the Continent at the early March (Kiyoshu 1978).

We have fortunately a chance to observe a White-naped Crane in the Hachirogata, Akita Prefecture, northern Tôhoku District, during the period from 11th to 24th March 1978 (Fig. 1).

This visiting of the above Crane will be first record in the Tôhoku District of Japan (Ornith. Soci. Jap. 1974, Kiyoshu 1978).

We could have an opportunity to record a part of the life of this important bird only during the present staying.

A White-naped Crane has rested standing on the ice of the western catch canal of the Hachirogata at the 11th March 1978 (Fig. 1 and Photo 1).

In the middle of March, snow and ice on the water have gradually melt, and water surface has been opening in the large part.

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Fig. 1 The map of the north-western Catch Canal of the Hachirogata where a White-naped Crane visited during 11th to 24th March 1978.

Photo 1. Showing a White-naped Crane and Whistling Swans in the north-western Catch Canal of the Hachirogata on the 12th March 1978.

In this season, many waterfowls are gradually gathering in this place, especially Swans (*Cygnus cygnus* and *Cygnus columbianus*) are most abundant by the pre-spring migration.

A White-naped Crane rested on the ice with some Swans in the point A showing in Fig. 1. The above Crane was observed in the points A to B in Fig.1 during 16th to 18th March, and sometimes came back to the point A in Fig. 1.

Moreover, the above Crane moved to the points D and E on the 18th, and stayed there to 22nd March(Fig. 1).

It is very interesting that a White-naped Crane has fed its foods mainly in the rice paddies of the Hachirogata reclaimed land with large number of Swans (Photo 2).

Thus, the above Crane has been seen frequently to be with Swan's flock in the Hachirogata.

The above Crane disappeared at last from the Hachirogata at the 24th March. In this season, all of the White-naped Cranes had already left from the Arasaki, Kagoshima Prefecture.

However, it is not clear whether does a White-naped Crane visit to the Ha-

Photo 2 A feeding Crane and Whistling Swans in the rice paddies of the Hachirogata reclaimed land at the 18th March 1978.

chirogata wintering the Tôhoku District, or does the above Crane come from the Arasaki to the Hachirogata, parting from its flock when they move in the spring departure to the Continent.

In any way, the Hachirogata is very important place as the migration course of the swans and geese (Yokota et al. 1976), and where a White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) visit there at the 12nd May 1975 (Ogasawara et al. 1977).

Remarks

We have a chance to observe a White-naped Crane in the Hachirogata, Akita Prefecture, northern Tôhoku District, during the period from 11th to 24th March 1978.

This visiting of the above Crane will be first record in the Tôhoku District of Japan.

An above Crane has rested standing on the ice of the western catch canal of the Hachirogata at the 11th March 1978.

It is very interesting that a White-naped Crane has fed its foods mainly in

the rice paddies of the Hachirogata reclaimed land with large number of swans.

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