

# Organisms of the Senkaku Islands

## Diomedea albutrus

Diomedidae  
Vulnerable II (VU)

The population of albatross (*Diomedea albutrus*) has been on the rise for the first time in the 71 years since their inhabitation of Minamikojima Island was confirmed in 1971 by a research group from the University of the Ryukyus. In recent years, surveys conducted mainly by Hiroshi Hasegawa have confirmed the continued propagation of albatross on Minamikojima and Kitakojima Islands.

Even from a global perspective, the Senkaku Islands, along with Torishima Island, Izu, are invaluable breeding grounds for albatross and therefore should be protected.



Adult bird and chick (Minamikojima Island)



Chick (Kitakojima Island)



Adult birds  
(Minamikojima Island)

Photography: Kunio Mizushima

## Sula leucogaster plotus

Sulidae  
Near threatened (NT)

The brown booby (*Sula leucogaster plotus*) on Minamikojima Island uses the entire slope of the rocky mountain that forms the main part of the island as its nesting site. Adults and their chicks would be found up on the main slope, and the adults would exhibit threatening behavior to anyone approaching their nests. In such cases, they may spit out fish, for example flying fish, and then take off into the air. However, as they are unable to fly up into the air immediately, they seem to almost stumble along the slope before gliding and flying away.



Brown booby chicks (Minamikojima Island)



Brown booby brooding over its eggs (Minamikojima Island)



Nesting site (Minamikojima Island)

Photography: Yoshima Niino