

Organisms of the Senkaku Islands



Nesting site (Kitakojima Island)

Sterna fuscata nubilosa

Laridae

Near threatened (NT)

A survey conducted in 1955 found that one side of the slopes was used by sooty terns (*Sterna fuscata nubilosa*) as their nesting site. The area was so crowded then that there was hardly any space for the surveyors to stand in. However, according to a survey conducted in 1979, the number of sooty terns has declined drastically because of overhunting and other factors, while the grassland area has increased.



Sooty terns nesting around the nesting site of the greater crested tern (Kitakojima Island)

Photography: Yoshima Niiro



Greater crested tern colony (Kitakojima Island)

Thalasserus bergii cristatus

Laridae

Vulnerable (VU) species, Category II

On Kitakojima Island, the entire grassland area used to be covered by sooty terns and greater crested terns (*Thalasserus bergii cristatus*) using the land as their nesting sites. The grass at the heart of the colony had withered and turned brown from being trod on by the birds as well as from the excrement they left. After they flew away, it was observed that countless eggs were left behind.



Greater crested tern eggs (Kitakojima Island)



Mogera uchidai

Talpidae

Critically Endangered IA (CR)

A small mole belonging to the talpidae family. One mole was collected on the grassland near the coast of Uotsuri Island in 1979. It is an academically invaluable species that was formerly classified as a monotypic genus.



撮影：沖縄開発庁