A world where a million seabirds foster new life
TEURI ISLAND
TEURI ISLAND
DIGITAL PHOTO BOOK
TERRA IMAGES

Sunbeams pouring down onto the ocean in front of mainland Hokkaido seen from Teuri Island

What kind of island is Teuri Island?

Teuri Island is located about 30km offshore from Haboro in northwestern Hokkaido; it rests on the water about 3 km away from Yagishiri Island, which floats beside it. It is a small island with a circumference of about 12 km, and is in the shape of a human footprint seen from above. On such a small island, about 300 people live together with eight species of seabirds, whose numbers total around 1,000,000. It is the breeding ground for rare seabirds such as the Common Murre and the Spectacled Guillemot.

Island of Fisheries and Seabirds

Teuri Island is an island abundant in seafood. Above all else, the most prized item is the freshly caught, shining orange sea urchin! The fishing season for sea urchin is from June to August, and many other kinds of marine products are caught around Teuri Island all year round. Teuri Island is an island of fisheries, with over half of the people on the island being involved in the fishing industry. The people who live on Teuri Island along with the seabirds both lead lives that depend on the ocean. By re-examining the scope and methods of fishing on Teuri Island and making arrangements to lessen impacts on seabirds, progress is being made towards coexistence between people and seabirds.

Let's choose a mode of transportation that fits best in the Port of Teuri

When you arrive on Teuri Island, the place where you first disembark is the Port of Teuri. There are stores that rent bicycles, scooters and cars, and it is also the starting point for guided tours, where you can listen to a lecture from a nature guide while travelling around the island by car. Also, you can walk the 10 km around the island, which takes around three hours. To enjoy Teuri Island to its fullest, it would be best to choose a mode of transportation that fits your particular objectives and individual circumstances.

There is a visitor center called "Umi-no-uchuukan" within a five minute walk from the Port of Teuri. If you are going to travel around the island by yourself, it is probably best to visit here first and gather information. The entry is free. You can use the multiple services that are provided within the dodecagonal building, such as the exhibited pictures and explanations, as well as a café corner, and a shop selling seabird goods and books about Teuri Island.

Furthermore, if you proceed clockwise around the island along the coast, there are houses lining both sides of the road and other buildings such as: Teuri High School, the Teuri branch of Haboro town hall, the fire station, and the police station. As for drinks, if you don't buy them at the store located here, you won't be able to get any from here on, so take note. Continuing along, there is an elementary-middle school and a post office, and as you progress further, buildings become few and far between.

You absolutely cannot miss it! The Rhinoceros Auklet homecoming of Akaiwa Observatory

As the sun sets and the first star shines, Rhinoceros Auklets start to come home from the ocean with great speed and the clamorous sound of wings flapping. Birds with fish in their mouths can be seen returning to their nests from late May to July, while their chicks are roosting. As it gets darker, the homecoming intensifies and it seems like the Rhinoceros Auklets will cover the sky. With 400,000 breeding pairs of Rhinoceros Auklets on Teuri Island, it is the world's largest breeding ground. Night tours where you can watch the Rhinoceros Auklets are offered from the end of April to July. For those who are interested in taking part, please inquire at your place of lodging.

From the southern tip of Akaiwa Observatory to the Paradise of the Seabirds!

When the houses eventually stop, the view to the ocean opens up all at once as you head out to the Kurosaki coast. There, from April to August, the Black-tailed Gulls raise their young from the shore to the shoulder of the road. When you pass through, you must be careful of head-on collisions with Black-tailed Gulls. Let's try and see some Black-tailed Gulls while keeping your distance at the same time! After the Kurosaki coast, there is a long uphill road. The white lighthouse that you will see before too long is a sign that you have reached the Akaiwa observatory at the southern tip. The clear ocean that you can see from there, and the 48m tall Akaiwa are amazing sights! The steep cliffs are viewing points for Spectacled Guillemots and the ocean just below is a viewing point for Common Murres. Also, the surroundings are covered to a bizarre degree with holes, which are the dens of a seabird called the Rhinoceros Auklet. There are guided tours where you can observe the scene of the Rhinoceros Auklets returning to their nests in the late evening - I'll explain more about that later. From here, the road makes a large U-turn and climbs even higher, and you can see an abandoned lighthouse on top of a small hill at the highest point of the island, 184.5m. Soon after, there is another road toward the sea that leads to a small hut for viewing seabirds. There is a free telescope; during the seabird breeding season you can observe Japanese Cormorants, Pelagic Cormorants, and Slaty-backed Gulls on the steep cliffs raising their chicks. As you progress further along the gently sloping road, you can see Cape Kan'on. On the cliff seen from the tip of the cape, you can look out over the complete landscape of a heart-shaped land formation and the seabird breeding ground. Rishiri-Fuji is visible when the weather is clear, and depending on the season, you can also enjoy viewing colorful flowers.

Let's follow the etiquette!

In order to promote compatibility between tourism and seabird preservation, rules have been established and birdwatching etiquette on Teuri Island is taken seriously. Please refer to the homepage, we humbly ask for your cooperation and understanding on the etiquette and rules.

Winter

TEURI ISLAND

The harsh winter of Teuri Island with Yagishiri Island faintly visible in the background

Surging waves crashing against the rocky reef of the Kurosaki Coast

Slaty-backed Seagull searching for food floating on the ocean surface in the midst of heavy snow

Rough-legged Buzzard, a bird often seen in winter, searching for mice since before daybreak

Coastal landscape in a heavy blizzard, a scene which is very common in winter

Spring

TEURI ISLAND

Teuri Island before it becomes covered in greenery. Yagishiri Island and the mountains of mainland Hokkaido are visible in the background.

Spotted Seals poking out their heads against a background of Rishiri-Fuji seen from the base of the cliffs on the west coast

Flock of seagulls diving into the ocean, aiming for a school of small fish

The west coast of Teuri Island in the evening. Fog billows from the ravines towards the sea

After sunset, a flock of Rhinoceros Auklets are waiting off the coast to return to their nests in the cliffs

As the day grows dark, innumerable Rhinoceros Auklets fly back all at once to the land of their nests

Silhouettes of Rhinoceros Auklets rise up against the moonlight reflected on the ocean

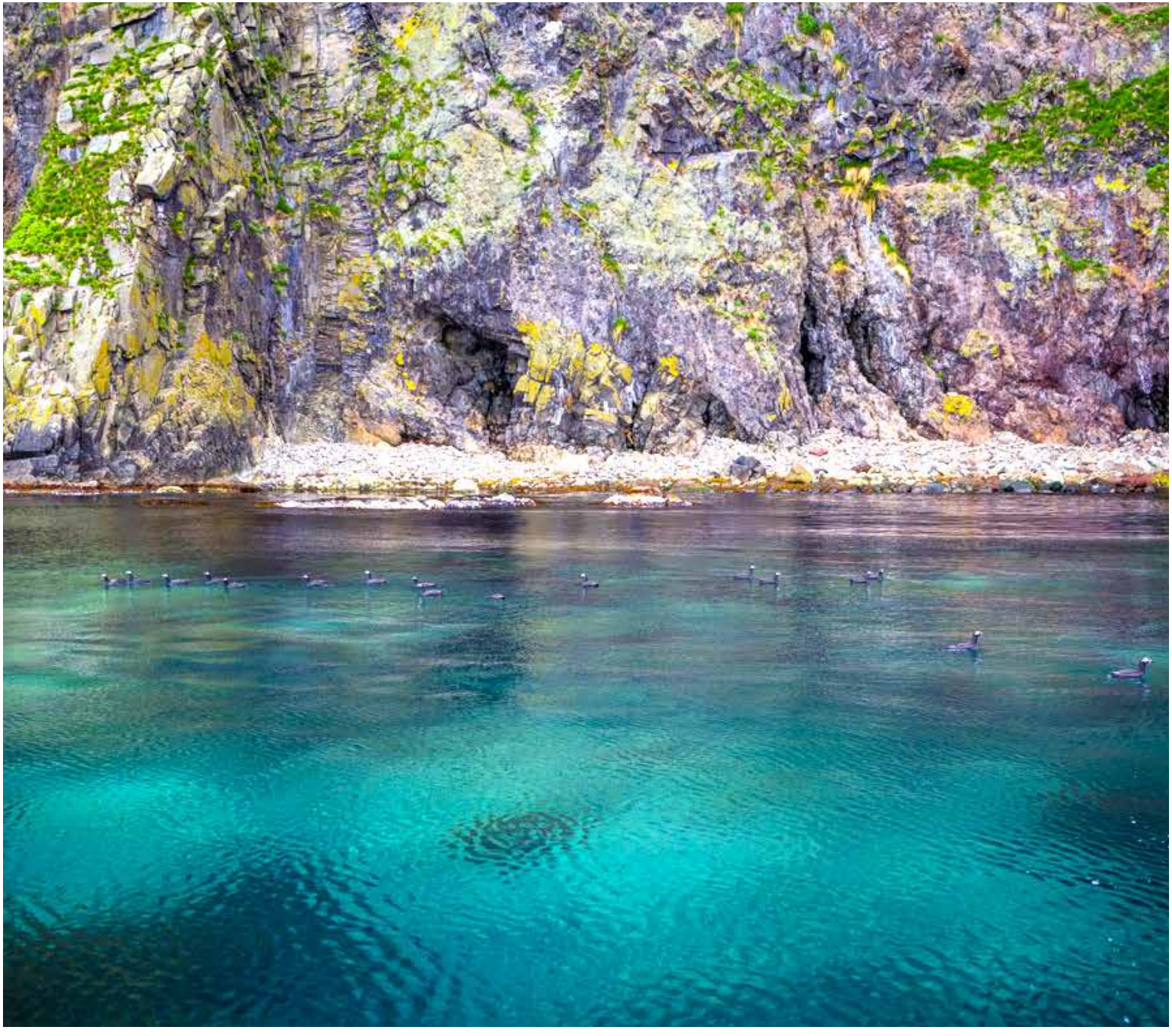
The light of morning on a colony of Black-tailed Gulls

Flock of Black-tailed Gulls diving into the ocean aiming for a school of fish near the surface

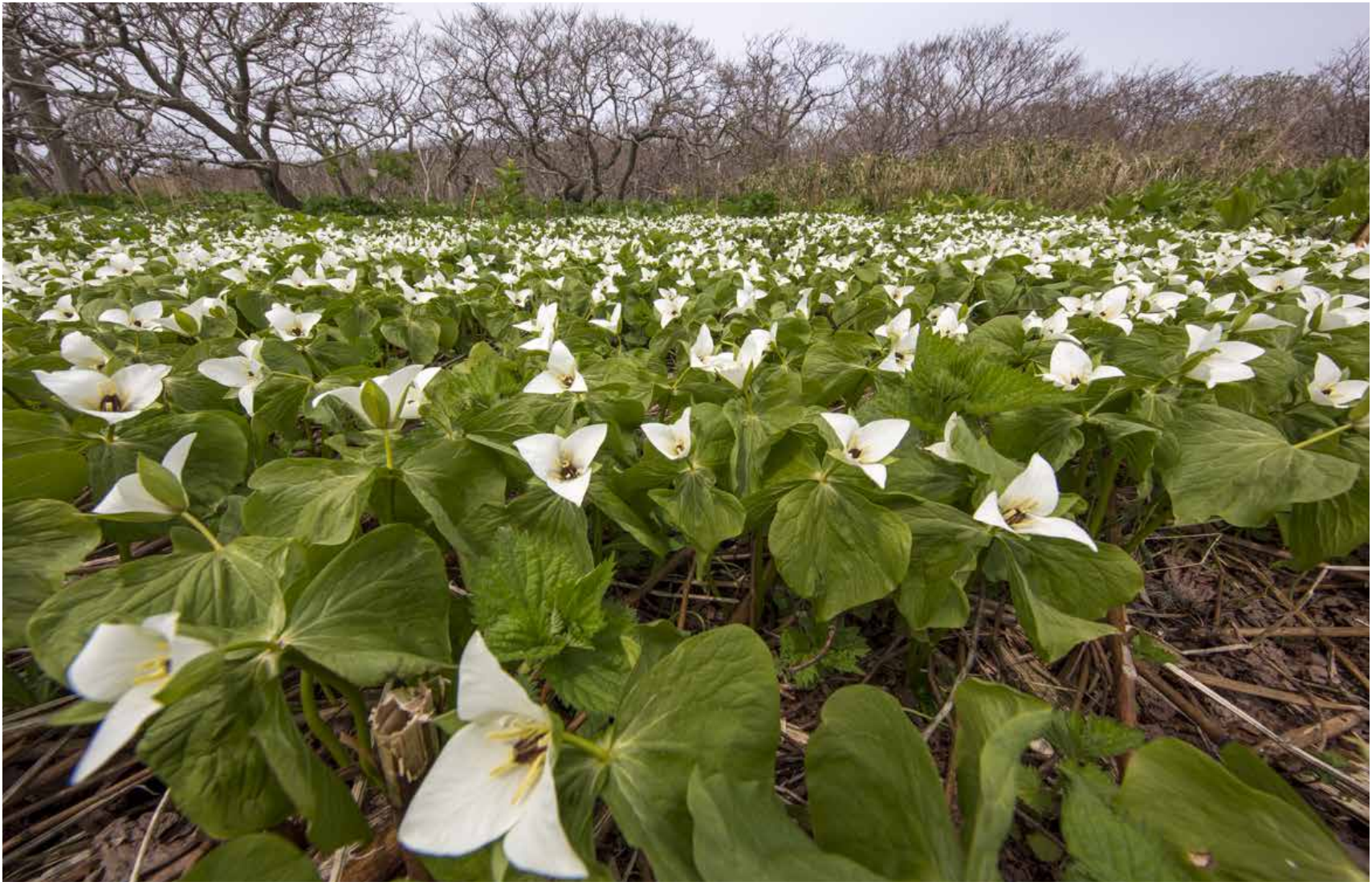
Pelagic Cormorant adorned with striking ornamental plumage, only seen in the early breeding season

Multiple Japanese Cormorants keeping their eggs warm on a shelf in the cliff face, almost like apartments

Spectacled Guillemots preening each other, one of their courtship behaviours



The beauty of the Spectacled Guillemots becomes even more prominent with the “Teuri Blue” bay and the cliffs which serve as their breeding ground



In early May, the Chishima Trilliums are in full bloom like a white carpet

In May, a Blue-and-white Flycatcher stops over during migration

Eurasian Bullfinch perched on a Sargent cherry tree, about to eat the flower buds

Coal Tit searching for bugs on a Japanese Alder

Eurasian Siskin pecking at the seeds of a Japanese Butterbur

Summer

TEURI ISLAND

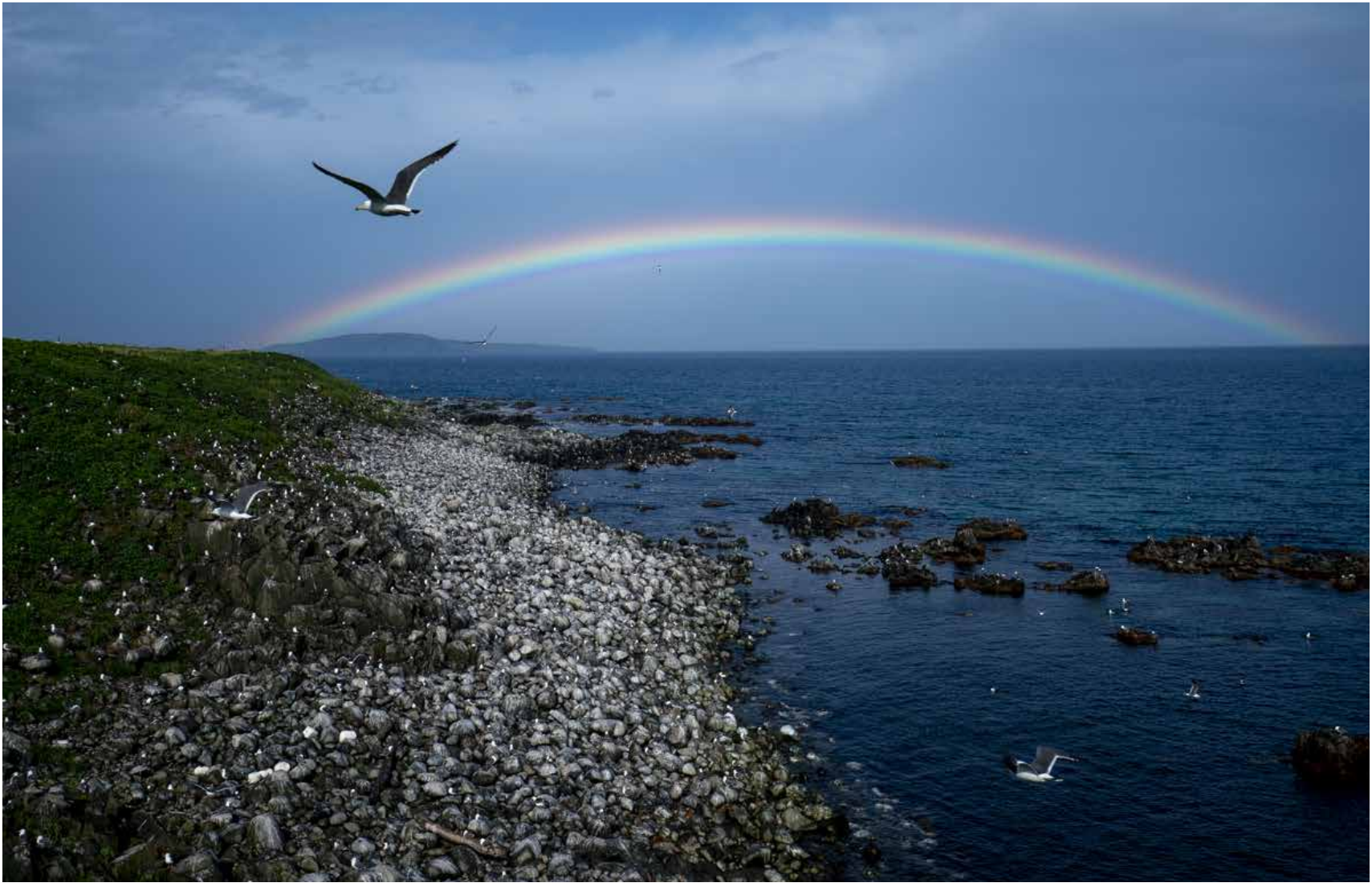
The “Teuri Blue” ocean and Akaiwa which forms the core area of the seabird breeding grounds

Pair of Spectacled Guillemots calling together, their high-pitched voices carry well throughout the cliffs where their nests are found

Spectacled Guillemot taking flight while lightly kicking off the water's surface

A black and white Common Murre, whose sole breeding ground in Japan is Teuri Island

Rhinoceros Auklet flapping its wings and swimming freely underwater



Rainbow shining over a colony of Black-tailed Gulls on the Kurosaki coast

The steep cliffs of the west coast with the Black-tailed Gulls that breed there

The sunlight that pours down from the sky and shines through the wings of Pacific Swifts

Pacific Swifts flying through over the ocean sea fog tinted by the evening sun

When you look towards Rishiri-Fuji from the Akaiwa Observatory after sunset, the flock of Rhinoceros Auklets returning to their nests seems like it covers the entire sky

Rhinoceros Auklet bringing home many Sand Lances for its chicks waiting in the nest

A Slaty-backed Gull, the strongest of the seabirds on Teuri, attacks and eats a Rhinoceros Auklet chick

The traditional way of fishing for sea urchins on Teuri Island

Dusk in August seen from the Akaiwa Observatory, during the final stages of the seabird breeding season

Japanese Amberjacks gather to chase small fish, which also attracts many seagulls hunting for small fish

Autumn

TEURI ISLAND

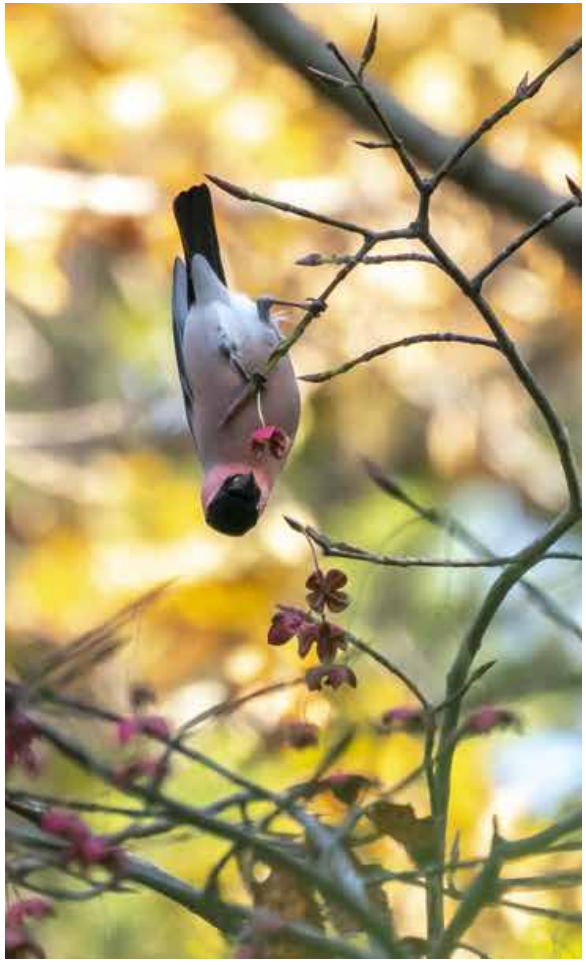
The great starry sky visible through the clear air of early autumn, with the lights from the squid fishing boats

Wavering pampas grass, with the sun rising over mainland Hokkaido and Yagishiri Island

Leaves are starting to change on the Mongolian oaks along the Teuri Island footpath

Common Buzzard that caught an Ezo shrew

Stopping over on Teuri Island on its way migrating south,
a Eurasian Siskin eats in preparation for
the next leg of its migration

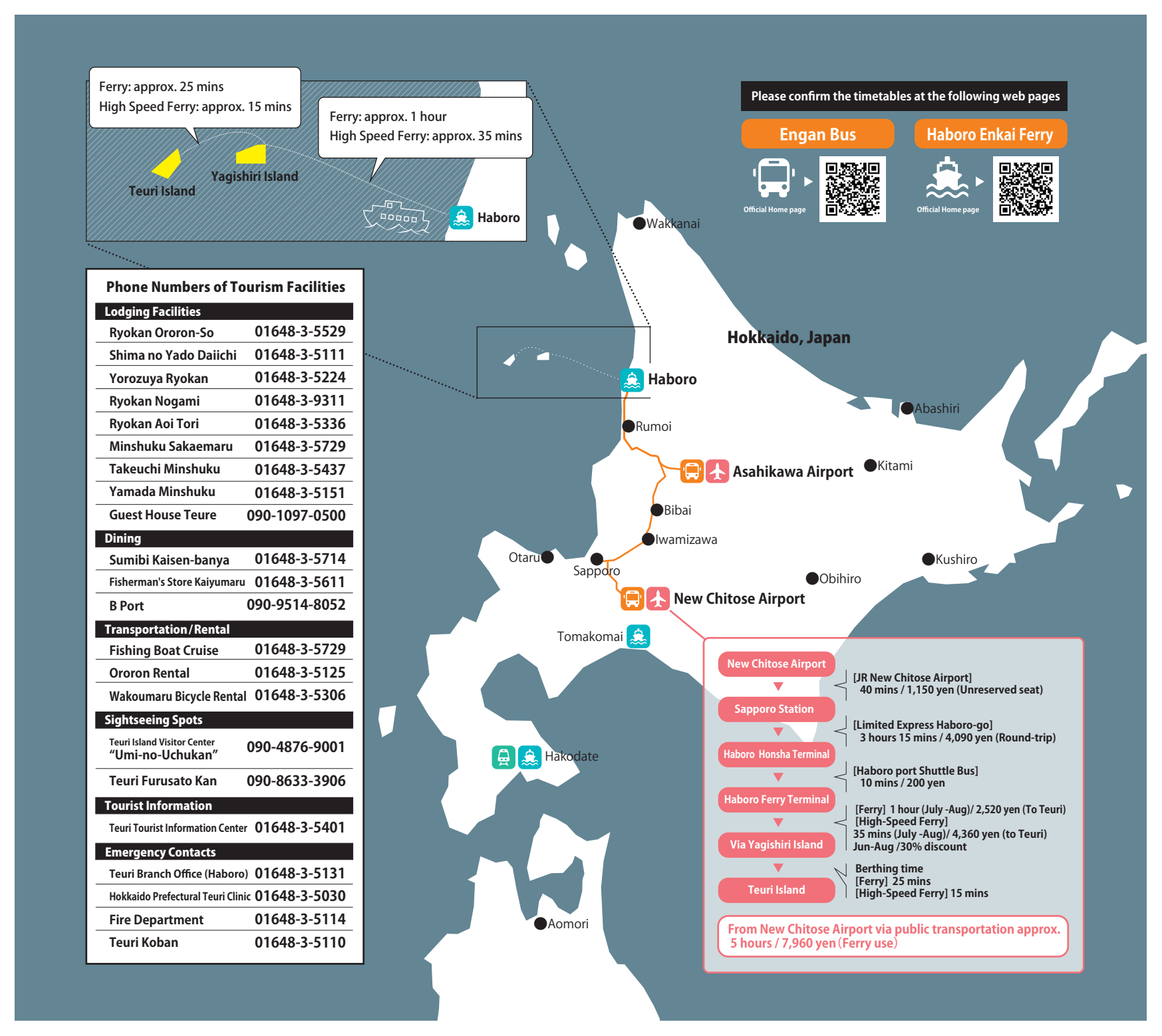


Eurasian Bullfinch eating
the fruit of a Korean
Spindletree to prepare
for further migration

Snow Buntings can often be seen in November,
as they are the last of the small birds to head south

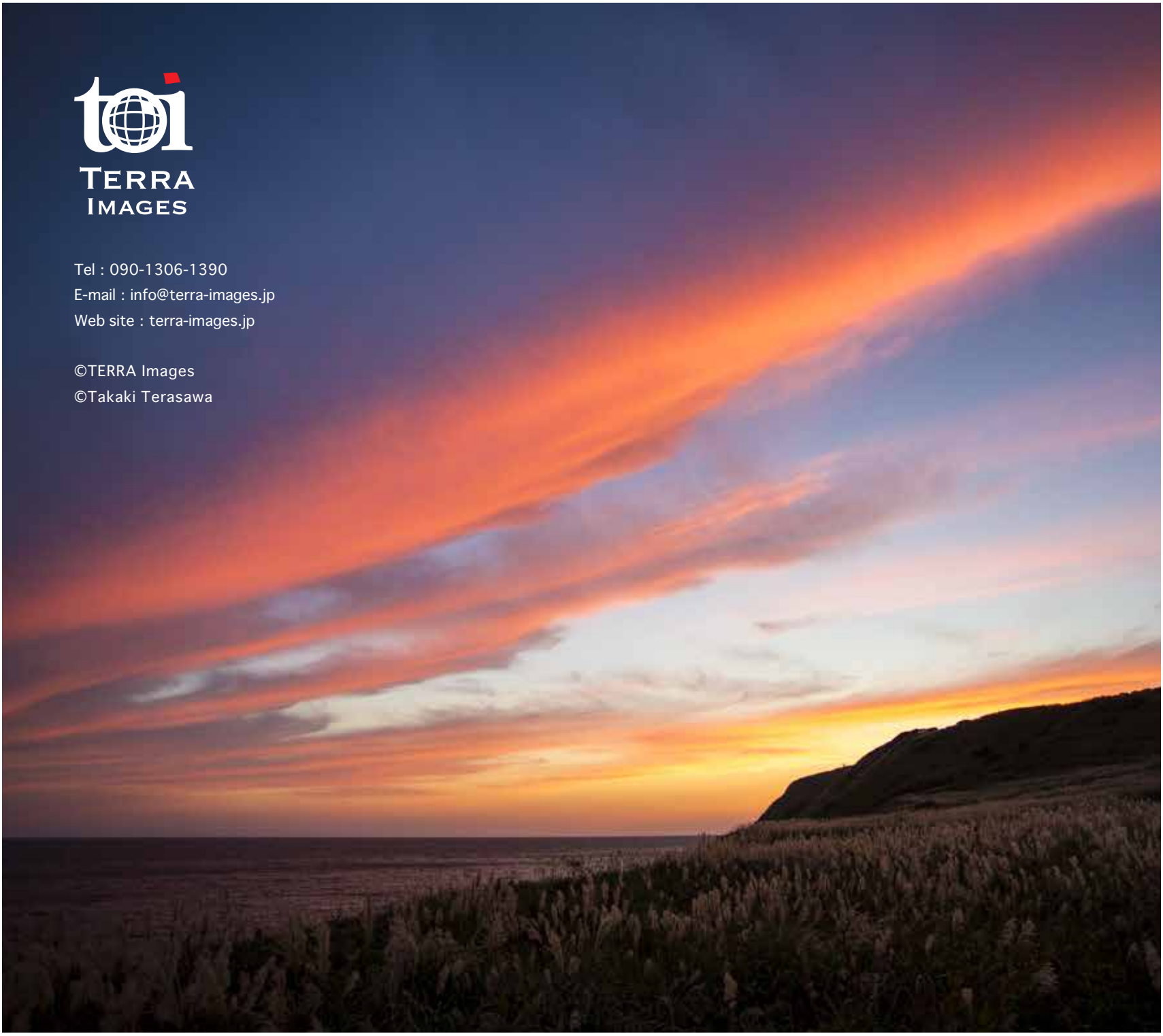
Pine Grosbeak eating the berries of a Japanese Rowan. The number of berries varies greatly from year to year, just like this bird

The Siberian Accentor is uncommon in Japan.
Sightings of this rare bird on Teuri Island are frequent.



Phone Numbers of Tourism Facilities

Lodging Facilities	
Ryokan Ororon-So	01648-3-5529
Shima no Yado Daiichi	01648-3-5111
Yorozuya Ryokan	01648-3-5224
Ryokan Nogami	01648-3-9311
Ryokan Aoi Tori	01648-3-5336
Minshuku Sakaemaru	01648-3-5729
Takeuchi Minshuku	01648-3-5437
Yamada Minshuku	01648-3-5151
Guest House Teure	090-1097-0500
Dining	
Sumibi Kaisen-banya	01648-3-5714
Fisherman's Store Kaiyumaru	01648-3-5611
B Port	090-9514-8052
Transportation / Rental	
Fishing Boat Cruise	01648-3-5729
Ororon Rental	01648-3-5125
Wakoumaru Bicycle Rental	01648-3-5306
Sightseeing Spots	
Teuri Island Visitor Center "Umi-no-Uchukan"	090-4876-9001
Teuri Furusato Kan	090-8633-3906
Tourist Information	
Teuri Tourist Information Center	01648-3-5401
Emergency Contacts	
Teuri Branch Office (Haboro)	01648-3-5131
Hokkaido Prefectural Teuri Clinic	01648-3-5030
Fire Department	01648-3-5114
Teuri Koban	01648-3-5110



TERRA
IMAGES

Tel : 090-1306-1390
E-mail : info@terra-images.jp
Web site : terra-images.jp

©TERRA Images
©Takaki Terasawa