

The crimson spirit of Teuri Island

Spectacled Guillemot

D I G I T A L P H O T O B O O K



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Teuri Island

HOKKAIDO



Around mid-April, Spectacled Guillemots gather in order to breed along the Teuri Island coast after spending the winter offshore



A group of Spectacled Guillemots resting their wings on a rocky reef



On the ocean in April, the Spectacled Guillemot season of love is about to start



Spectacled Guillemots floating together with Rishiri Island in the background



The male, behind, desperately tries to get the attention of a female





Copulation of Spectacled Guillemots



During a quarrel between two males, possibly concerning a female, the Spectacled Guillemot being chased, dives into the ocean in a panic



Even if waves from the large swell break over them, Spectacled Guillemots are not daunted



Courtship behaviour of preening while crossing necks





Spectacled Guillemot rapidly climbing from the ocean toward the nests at the top of the steep cliffs



Sheer cliff with crevices that becomes a housing complex for Spectacled Guillemots



A male tries to attract a female by walking around her with his bright red feet



A couple cuddling together on the terrace by the entrance of their nest



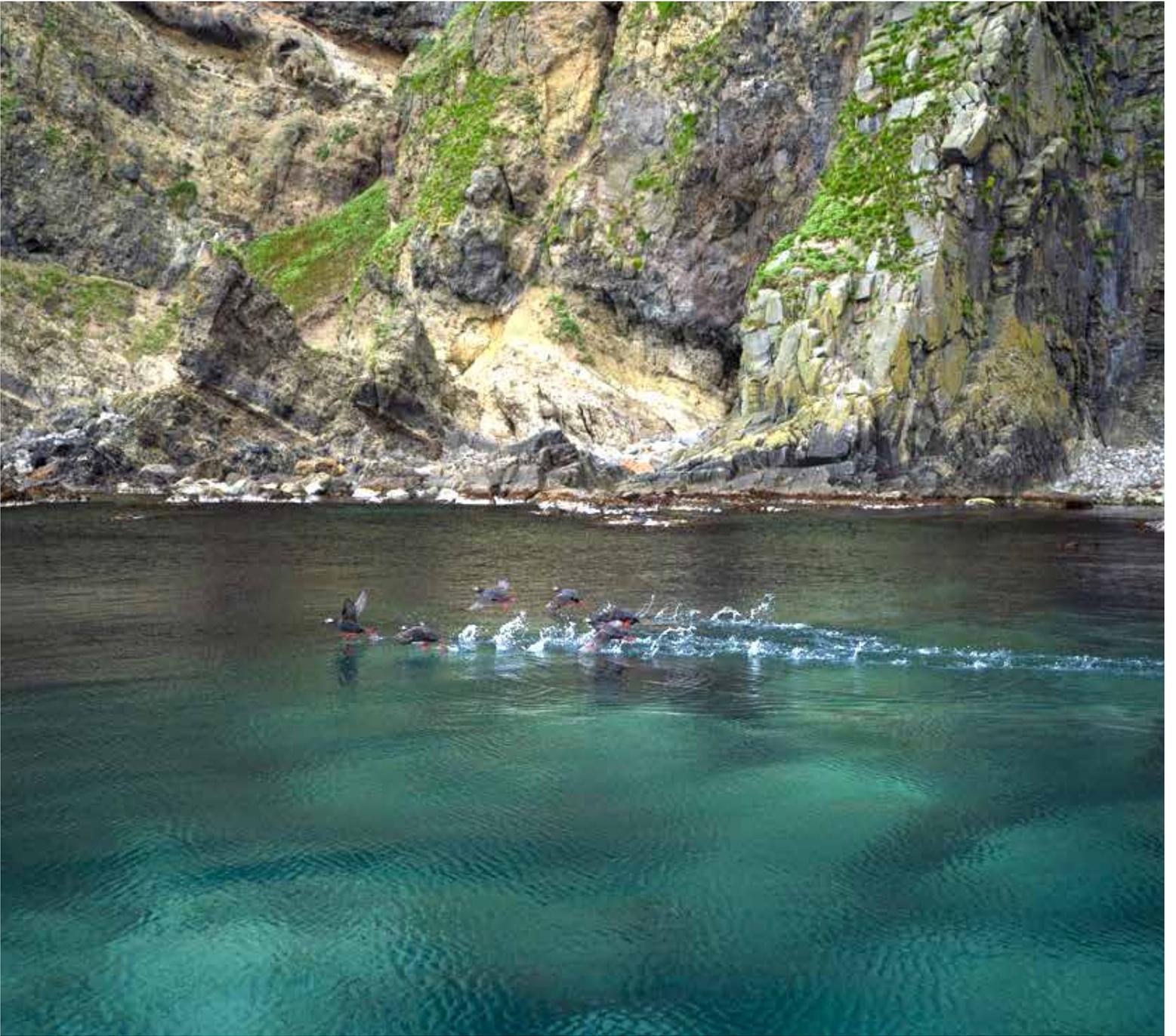
The wings of a Spectacled Guillemot display their exceptional athletic ability at both flying and diving



Taking off by dashing along the water' s surface, while flicking up small splashes



The steep cliffs that form the breeding grounds for the Spectacled Guillemots, and the shoreline where they often huddle together and float



A bay surrounded by sheer cliffs is the Spectacled Guillemot's favorite place



Water landing from the sheer cliffs





Flapping its wings over 10 times per second and forcefully kicking using its webbed feet are the driving forces for takeoff





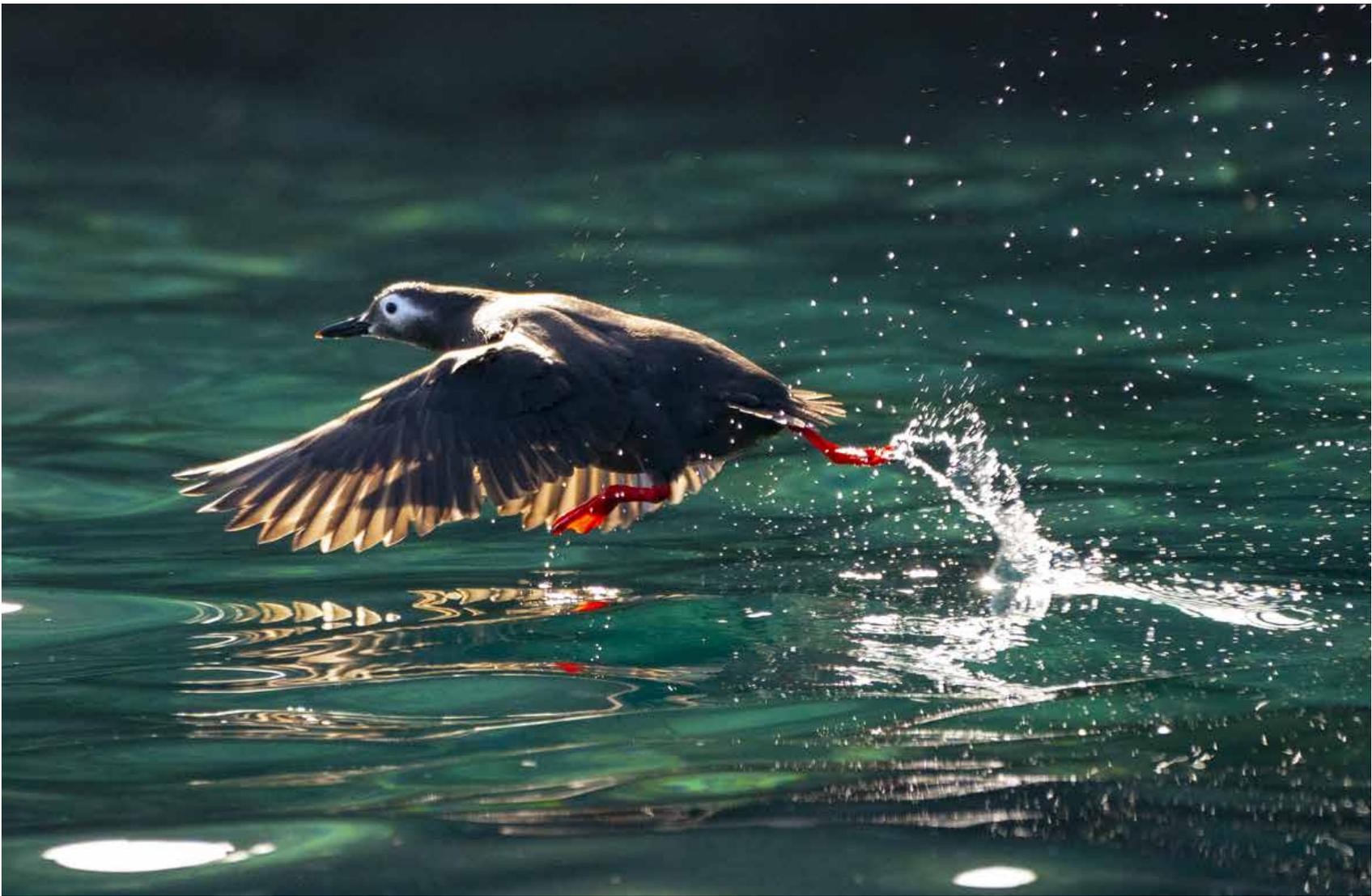
Courtship flight of a breeding pair



Lounging on the rocks in the early morning



Their red feet and the white around their eyes stand out against the landscape of black rocks



The red feet of the Spectacled Guillemot glisten against the clear blue ocean of Teuri Island



Their call of "Pi-pi-pi-pi" carries and resonates clearly, and so they are also called the "Canary of the Sea"



Ascending and cutting through the air with its wings spread just like an airplane



Taking off back to the nest with a Sand
Lance that it caught in its mouth





Feeding can be seen frequently from when the chicks hatch in June, until they leave the nests in July.



Lining up single-file, almost as if they were taking a roll-call



The frequently displayed behaviour of flicking the water's surface after peering underwater



Caught a large fish, half of the length of its own body



A pair preening on top of a rocky outcropping, which can be seen throughout the breeding season



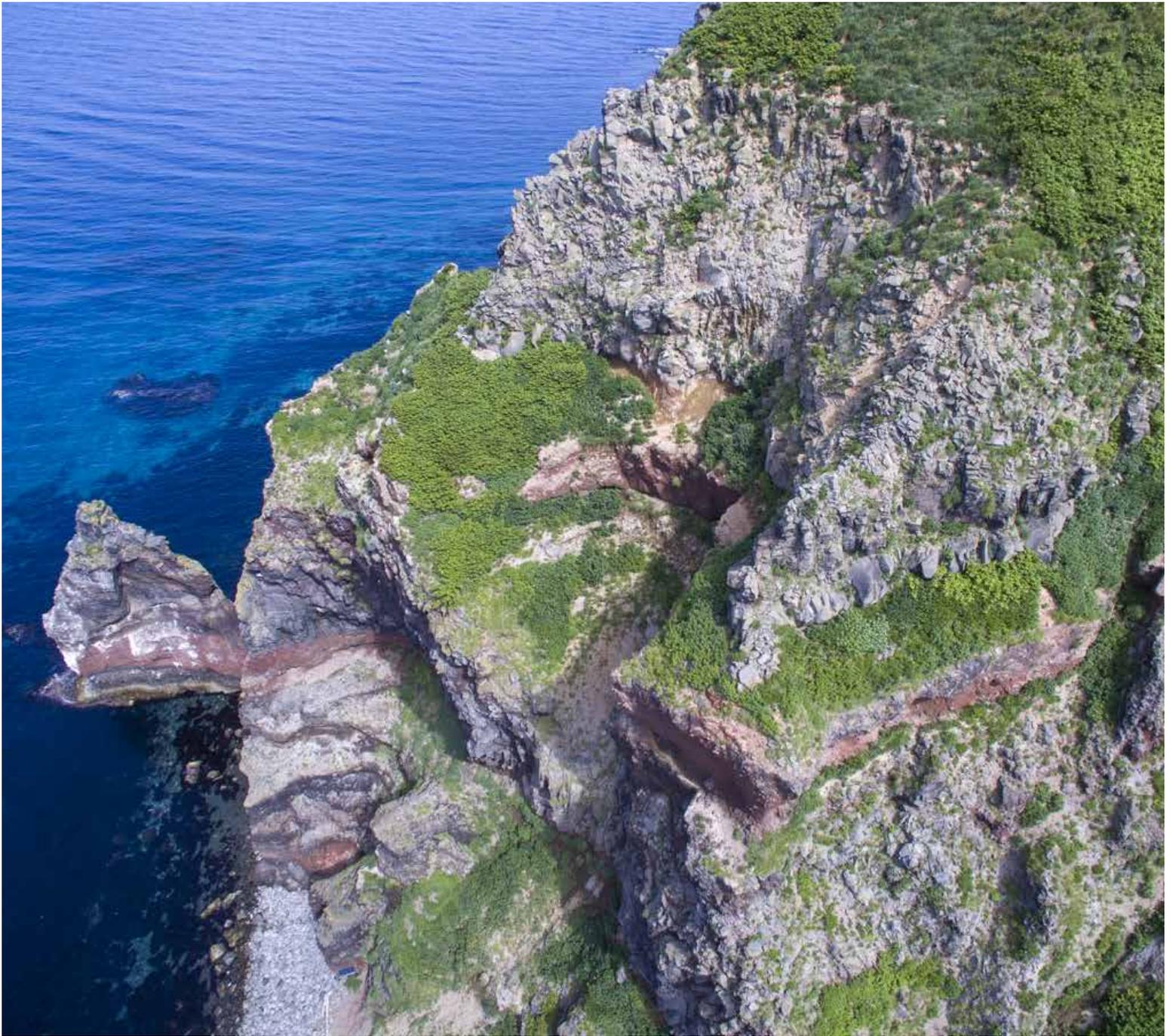
A sheer cliff formed by volcanic uplift is the most suitable breeding ground for Spectacled Guillemots



The sequential takeoff manoeuvre of flapping wings coupled with driving feet



The efficient and well-proportioned body is what brings forth the exceptional athletic ability of the Spectacled Guillemot



The Akaiwa area in the middle of summer, where the Spectacled Guillemots cluster most closely and build their nests



The ocean, which kaleidoscopically reflects the surrounding colors like a mirror, enhances the beauty of the Spectacled Guillemot



When the month or so that the pair has spent on feeding passes, the chicks leave the nest and the task of breeding ends



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-uchukan" 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.

The crimson spirit of Teuri Island

Spectacled Guillemot

A Seabird that is rare worldwide

In this country, Spectacled Guillemots breed in places such as the outlying Yururi and Moyururi Islands in Hokkaido, and Shiriyazaki in Aomori Prefecture. Among these places, Teuri Island is the largest breeding ground, where approximately 200 pairs are believed to breed. The breeding of Spectacled Guillemots on Teuri Island has stabilized in recent years - 778 birds were counted offshore in April 2017; but there is a record of 3000 birds in 1963, so compared to that time, the decline seems to be certain. Even worldwide, the distribution of Spectacled Guillemots is sparse; it is a rare seabird and places where it can be observed are limited. Therefore, the place that is most suitable for viewing this bird is Teuri Island during the breeding season.



Life on Teuri Island

Off the coast of Teuri Island, the month that Spectacled Guillemots are the most noticeable is March, when they gather in the breeding grounds of Teuri Island after spending the winter on the surrounding ocean. At this time, you will be able to see such behaviour as pairs flying in pursuit, which is considered to be part of the formation of couples. On the northwest-facing coast of Teuri Island with its consecutive steep cliff faces over a 100 metres high, the Spectacled Guillemots use the small crevices in the rocks to lay their eggs. In April and May, on the ocean below the cliffs, centered on the early hours of the morning, courtship rituals and mating take place while they call to each other in pairs. Laying eggs largely takes place in May, and usually 2 eggs are laid. The incubation period for the eggs is around 28 days, the chicks hatch in June, and they start to leave the nest in July. Feeding of the chicks is undertaken by both parents, who carry fish in their mouths, such as sculpins, sand lances and gunnels. By early August, hardly any of the parents or the chicks who have left the nest are visible in the coastal breeding grounds. Research on this particular method of breeding has not advanced much due to the breeding location being on very steep cliffs. In the 2019 breeding season, for the first time in the world, a small camera was successfully used to record the behaviours of the parents and the chicks in the nest, the details relating to laying eggs and brooding are being analyzed.

Life outside of the breeding season

It is possible to see Spectacled Guillemots throughout the year on the ocean surrounding Teuri Island. There are hardly any sightings on the coasts from autumn, which is when the breeding season ends, to winter, but they can be seen relatively often from the ferry that links Teuri Island to Haboro, although it varies from year to year. During this season, they have winter plumage which is different from their appearance during the breeding season. The complete winter plumage turns white from the throat to the bottom of the abdomen, and their red feet are not as vivid as they are during the breeding season. The characteristic white color around the eyes still remains, so it serves as an easily recognizable point of identification.

The eight species of seabirds that breed on Teuri Island



Japanese Cormorant



Murrelet



Slaty-backed Gull



Common Murre

The eight species of seabirds that breed on Teuri Island



Rhinoceros Auklet



Spectacled Guillemot



Pelagic Cormorant



Black-tailed Gull

Ferry: approx. 25 mins
High Speed Ferry: approx. 15 mins

Ferry: approx. 1 hour
High Speed Ferry: approx. 35 mins

Teuri Island

Yagishiri Island

Haboro

Please confirm the timetables at the following web pages

Engan Bus



Official Home page



Haboro Enkai Ferry



Official Home page



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
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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

Hokkaido, Japan

Haboro

Rumoi

Asahikawa Airport

Kitami

Bibai

Iwamizawa

Otaru

Sapporo

New Chitose Airport

Obihiro

Kushiro

Tomakomai

Hakodate

Aomori

New Chitose Airport

[JR New Chitose Airport]
40 mins / 1,150 yen (Unreserved seat)

Sapporo Station

[Limited Express Haboro-go]
3 hours 15 mins / 4,090 yen (Round-trip)

Haboro Honsha Terminal

[Haboro port Shuttle Bus]
10 mins / 200 yen

Haboro Ferry Terminal

[Ferry] 1 hour (July-Aug) / 2,520 yen (To Teuri)
[High-Speed Ferry]
35 mins (July-Aug) / 4,360 yen (to Teuri)
Jun-Aug / 30% discount

Via Yagishiri Island

Teuri Island

Berthing time
[Ferry] 25 mins
[High-Speed Ferry] 15 mins

From New Chitose Airport via public transportation approx.
5 hours / 7,960 yen (Ferry use)



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