

Yokosawairi (Akiruno)

Small living things in the satoyama



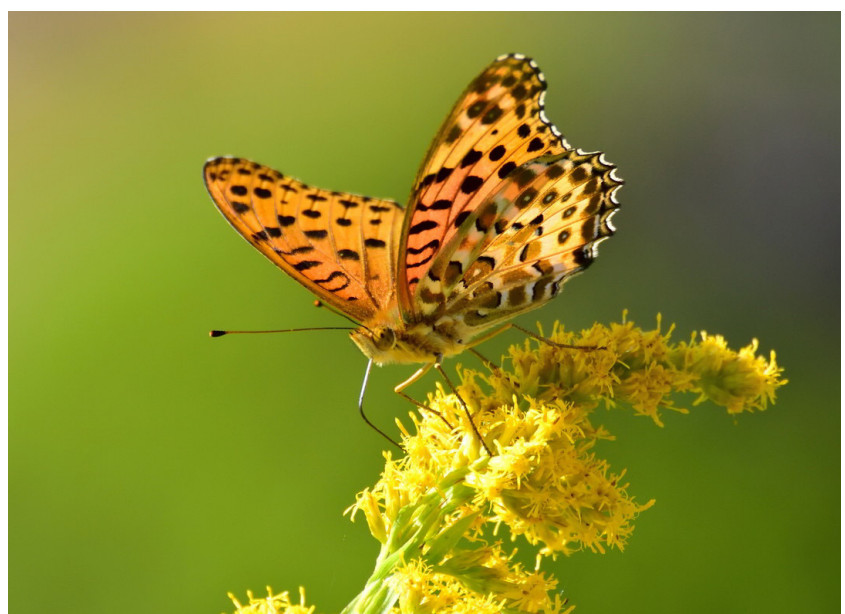
The Yokosawairi Satoyama Conservation Area is a place where you can see some of Japan's traditional rural landscapes as they used to be. There are a lot of different things living in this satoyama environment. In the rice paddies you can find rice grasshoppers, and the praying mantises that come to eat them. Common skimmers and banded darters come to lay their eggs in the flooded paddies. There are many jewelweed plants flowering in one corner of the paddy. Insects love to make their homes in these plants.

What creatures and plants can we see?

Rice grasshopper	Often seen gnawing on rice around paddy fields.
Japanese brown frog	Often seen around paddy fields in satoyama environments, which need to be protected to ensure their habitats remain.
Common skimmer	The male has a blue-white body that looks as if he has been dusted with salt, hence its Japanese name, “salty dragonfly.”
Banded darter	This is a species of red dragonfly. The decline in habitats in the wards of Tokyo has drastically reduced the opportunities to see this wildlife.
Jewelweed	These plants like wet places like water edges or rice paddies, but are getting rarer in the wards of Tokyo.
Hummingbird hawk-moth	The adult moths drink flower nectar while hovering in one place.
Ladybug	These eat the aphids that appear on plants. They are seen from spring to autumn in fields and grasslands, and spend the winter as adults.
A type of perennial herb	This grows in grasslands and similar places. When an insect or something brushes against them, the shock causes pollen to be released.
Indian fritillary	This butterfly was once common in western Japan, but it is often seen in eastern Japan these days, and is common in the urban areas.
A species of butterfly	These live in grasslands and similar areas, but places like this are getting fewer and fewer. We need to protect these environments.



Japanese brown frog



Indian fritillary

Paddy fields and the areas around them are precious habitats for wildlife. These satoyama environments need ongoing work. Even in places that appear abandoned, the right amount of effort will bring back the wildlife, restoring the rich environment.