

## **Mt. Koshikidake: Flora and Fauna**

The lower slopes of Mt. Koshikidake are cloaked with untouched conifer forest that has been designated a National Natural Monument. Nearer the summit, the conifers thin out and smaller, tougher plants like Miyama-Kirishima azaleas prevail. Inside the crater, the field of silver grass changes color with the seasons, from green in summer to shimmering white in autumn.

The wetland pond at the crater's center supports several species of insect-eating plants, including the common sundew and *mimikaki-gusa*. Many species of dragonfly are found here, including the wandering glider, white-tailed skimmer, common hawkler, and autumn darter. In spring, the pond is home to dragonfly nymphs and diving beetles. Avian residents of Mt. Koshikidake's slopes include jays, cuckoos, and bush warblers.