

Protecting the Rock Ptarmigan

The rock ptarmigan (*raichō*) is a treasured resident of Mt. Norikura. Endangered nationwide, these resilient ground-dwelling birds can survive the harshest alpine conditions, but their future depends on human care and consideration.

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Please keep your distance, and never attempt to touch the birds. Tame as they seem, this would cause them extreme distress.

Do not do anything that might frighten the birds. Please remain quiet and respectful.

Never feed the birds. Even a dropped crumb can attract predators such as foxes, martens, and crows—with potentially fatal results for the rock ptarmigan.