

The Ose Coast

The Ose Coast, located just north of Amami Airport at the mouth of the Maeda River, is the island's premier bird-watching site. The massive tidal flats are created by a reef that extends several hundred meters from shore. The reeds at the river mouth and the reef waters are rich with food, making this a paradise for wild birds. Some 120 bird species have been spotted here, including summer residents like the ruddy kingfisher. The Ose Coast is the largest stopover point on the Amami Islands for many migratory species, including sandpipers, egrets, terns, spoonbills, and plovers, who use it as a winter destination or for resting on their long seasonal flights north and south. The area is quite large, and binoculars or a monocular scope are recommended.