



Shirayama and Sakaguchi

Sakaguchi District; Shirayama, Echizen City

The tale of the stork that broke its beak, a well-known children's tale, is set in the area around Mt. Shira (Shirayama) and the Sakaguchi district. Surrounded on all side by mountains, its peaceful farm village sits nestled amidst a soothing natural landscape.



A mountain village in the Sakaguchi district's Kōtōhara-cho^①



Reservoir in Korokawa-cho, Shirayama District

The Shirayama and Sakaguchi districts, which sit in the western portion of Echizen City, the small valley comprised by the two areas has earned a place in Japan's 100 Villages to See owing to its enduring farm villages.

The area's natural springs and reservoir are home to many endangered species such as Abe's salamander, and are a treasure trove of rare animal life.



Locals working to create a stork-friendly farming environment^②



Traditional homes of Anyōji-cho's Shirayama District



Orchid blossom^③



Abe's salamander^④



"Etchan" the stork^⑤



In 2009, local residents formed a group to support the creation of farmlands that sustain crop yields while providing an environment in which storks can live. For the first time in 40 years, two storks landed in the Shirayama district. One among the pair remained in Echizen City for 107 days, and became affectionately known as "Etchan."

In the vicinity of Shirayama's Anyōji-cho, residents have worked since 2000 to restore the growth of orchids, which flourished naturally in the prior years.