

The actual situation and countermeasures of Roadkill in Japan

Masachika Tsuji
Associate Professor
Okayama university of science

Yuuka Suetsugu
Postgraduate PhD course
Tottori University

While Japan is a country with abundant nature, it is currently the case that measures against Roadkill are rarely taken in some areas, except for some elite animals.

I lived in Ishigakijima of Okinawa from 2010 and I lived in Okinawa Main Island for 4 years and I have been researching Road Kill. However, 1.4 million tourists visiting Ishigakijima (2017) with a carrying capacity of 700,000,

In Okinawa, public transportation is poor, and individual tourists are unable to do a satisfactory sightseeing without using rental cars, which is triggering a drastic increase in road kill.

Considering the results of our investigation, from January to April the spawning season of the frog, when the rain falls during that period the road kill of the frog increases dramatically. And since June to July it is the spawning season of the Land crabs, and Road Kill of Land Crab will increase dramatically. But the administration does not do anything against it. In addition, I would like to introduce the current situation of road kill in Okinawa Prefecture and its surrounding areas, especially the area where I live since April this year, and I would like to introduce the Ministry of the Environment and measures we are working towards the reduction of road kill.

The roadkill countermeasure is a little advanced in the "Yambaru" area in the northern part of the main island of Okinawa, the reason being to protect "Yambaru Quina" and "Ryukyu yamagame" etc. that only exist there. However, no other countermeasures have been applied to other endemic species, and many valuable creatures are suffering from a lot of road kills.

For example, unless you take measures such as regulating the total amount of rental cars or setting the maximum number of tourists to Okinawa, it may be impossible to escape extinct species.

Also, in the Chugoku area where I live, I would like to work on installing

speed bumps and painting to arouse attention on the roads at the road kill multiple zone, around Hiruzen plateau and Daisen,