UNIT A woodland to call not my own





さまざまな種類の鳥が、木の穴を巣として利用 しています。しかし、アファンの森にある木々 はまだ若すぎて、鳥たちが巣に使うことはでき ないようです。こうした問題を克服するため、 アファンの森ではどのようなことが行われてい るのでしょうか?

Warm-up Task

Mark your answers to these questions. Look up any new words in your dictionary.

- 1. Have you ever visited Nagano Prefecture?
 - (If yes, please write the purpose of your visit(s) in the blank space.)
 - ☐ Yes, many times.
 - ☐ Yes, once or twice.
 - □ No, I've never been there.
- 2. When you think about a forest, what adjectives come to mind?
- beautiful
 - □ scary

☐ healing

- pleasant
- □ relaxing
- □ dangerous □ inconvenient
-] remote
- \Box interesting \Box educational

peaceful

(your own idea)

therapeutic

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Reading

- CD>1-1 On May 31, 2002, our woodland here in Kurohime was designated as a Nagano Prefectural Trust, whose aim is to foster the rehabilitation of abused and neglected woodland. Through ongoing research and education, our goal is to restore the natural balance of the woodland and thus bring greater biodiversity.
 - 5 The C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland Trust—of which I am president—now comprises 30 hectares of mountainside, although I first started to buy land bit by bit in the 1980s. Some parts of it were little plantations of spindly conifers, but most was crowded mixed forest that had grown up after the slopes had been denuded of all trees, then abandoned. (It was still bloody expensive to buy though!)
 - ¹⁰ Along with my forester from the beginning, Matsuki-san (even his wife would never dream of calling him "Nobuyoshi"), his assistant and numerous ecology students and small groups, I have spent years thinning out and replanting with many of the 50-odd tree and bush species that were there before (we know from asking the old folks who are still around to remember). These included mountain cherry, Japanese oaks, maples, beech, walnut,
 - 15 chestnut and magnolia. A lot of seeds just spring to life from the ground, as if they have been waiting there for us to clear out the suffocating cover of bamboo grass.

This has yielded a very satisfactory increase in numbers and varieties of flowers, birds and insects—of which we have logged 900 species to date. Various wild animals, including bears, dormice, civets, ermine, weasels, foxes, tanuki, hares, deer and even, recently, wild boar also either visit us regularly or make the woods their home.

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One problem we have had to tackle is that many bird species need large, old hollow trees to nest in. Pretty little birds like tits and nuthatches are well-known for this nesting preference. However, large birds, such as the Ural owl also need hollow trees. The trouble is that all our trees are very young, and it'll be another 50 years or longer before we get ones suitable for these birds to raise their young in.

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Therefore, we decided to try using boxes and ceramic pots as nests.

Notes

Kurohime 黒姫 biodiversity 生物多様性 the C. W. Nicol Afan Woodland Trust C.W. ニコル・アファ ンの森財団 conifer 針葉樹 mixed forest 混交林(2種類以上の木からなる森林) forester 森の番人、林業家 thin out 間伐する mountain cherry 山桜 Japanese oak ミズナラ maple カエデ beech ブナ walnut クルミ chestnut クリの木 magnolia モクレン bamboo grass 笹 dormouse ヤマネ civet ジャコウネコ ermine オコジョ weasel イタチ hare ノウサギ wild boar イノシシ tit シジュウカ ラ nuthatch ゴジュウカラ Ural owl フクロウ ceramic pot 陶磁器のつぼ

- **CD>1-2** I was delighted by the rate of occupancy of both the boxes and the nest pots, so the university graduates and myself involved in this project began to try them in the woods, numbering them and keeping a watch on them.
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Some people have tried to criticize me, saying nest boxes are not "natural." Well, is denuding an area of trees and then abandoning it "natural"? By giving these beautiful birds a place to nest, they stay around the woods and also do a terrific job of taking caterpillars and other leaf and bark munching insects.

A big headache in the woodland is mice. We get a lot of snow, and the mice have the habit of nibbling away the roots and stems of saplings during the winter, so they end up looking like sharpened pencils. They especially like young oaks. We've lost hundreds of these trees to mice—even trees 8 years old and growing straight and strong.

Why, I don't know, but there seem to be fewer snakes such as vipers (mamushi) around than there used to be. Perhaps one reason is the three-sided concrete sluices they are
putting in all over Japan. I know I've seen a large aodaisho being helplessly washed down the sluice that runs past our woods to local paddies—a sluice I hope to soon return to its natural state. Snakes eat mice and are very welcome.

Owls, too, take a lot of mice, especially when they have young, so for eight years or so we had been trying out a nest box for owls. This year the "owl box" was so dilapidated we decided to remove it and go back to the drawing board. However, when Matsuki-san

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looked inside, there were three owl eggs. We consulted an expert and guarded the box zealously, as we have been getting reports of an increase in owlet poaching ... thanks to Harry Potter. (Our owls do not deliver mail!) We are now very happy, however, to announce the safe rearing of three fine healthy.

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We are now very happy, however, to announce the safe rearing of three fine healthy, fluffy young Ural owls, and we will increase the owl-box housing available to them in the future.

Notes

rate of occupancy 占有率 caterpillar イモムシ、毛虫 bark 樹皮 nibble away ~ ~を少しずつかじって 食べる sapling 若木 three-sided concrete sluice コンクリート三面張りの水路 paddy 水田 be dilapidated ぼろぼろになる go back to the drawing board 白紙に戻す owlet フクロウの子 poaching 密猟

Vocabulary

Circle the correct meanings for these words. Do not use a dictionary. For words you do not know, try to guess the meaning from the context.

1. aim	a. 役割	b. 目的	c. 活動
2. comprise ~	a. ~を欠く	b. ~に匹敵する	c. ~から成る
3. bit by bit	a. 少しずつ	b. 慎重に	c. ゆっくり
4. along with ~	a. ~と一緒に	b. ~に従って	c. ~のおかげで
5. yield ~	a. ~を要求する	b. ~をもたらす	c. ~を予想する
6. terrific	a. すばらしい	b. 当たり前の	c. 退屈な

Comprehension: True or False

Write T (true) or F (false) for each of these statements:

- **1.** The land for the Afan Woodland was bought by C. W. Nicol in 2002.
- **2.** Matsuki-san works in the Afan Woodland.
- **3.** A variety of different animals can now be found in the woods there.
- **4**. It is difficult for some birds to find a place to make a nest in the woods.
- **5.** C. W. Nicol rejected the idea of nest boxes because they are unnatural.
- **6.** Snakes are welcomed in the woods.

Useful Grammar	前置詞+関係代名詞
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関係代名詞が前置詞の目的語となる場合、前置詞のあとに置くことができる。

- The C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland Trust—of which I am president now comprises 30 hectares of mountainside.
- This has yielded a very satisfactory increase in numbers and varieties of flowers, birds and insects—of which we have logged 900 species to date.
- **Q**次の()内に適切な前置詞を入れなさい。
 - **1.** This is the house () which I was born.
 - **2**. He has a new car () which he is very proud.
 - **3.** Mrs. Smith had three sons, () whom John was the youngest.

C Listening Practice

- CD>1-3 Pre-read these questions and then listen to C. W. Nicol talking more about the topics from the reading passage. Write or mark your answers:
 - 1. When was Afan Woodland Trust established?
 - 2. How many people work at the trust?
 - 3. How did Mr. Nicol choose the location for his forest?
 - **a.** His friend, Tanigawa Gan, suggested living in Kurohime.
 - **b.** He had lived in this area as a child.
 - **c.** His wife was born in Kurohime.
 - 4. What has been the main goal in establishing Afan?
 - **a.** To make a virgin forest that can be enjoyed by Mr. Nicol and his family.
 - **b**. To make a virgin forest that can make money by attracting many visitors.
 - **c**. To make a virgin forest that can be used for education, research and healing.
 - 5. What does Mr. Nicol most like to do in the forest?
 - \Box **a.** walk, sit and feel the forest
 - **b.** hunt wild animals
 - \Box **c**. take photographs of the trees and animals

Writing and Discussion

Discuss these questions (in Japanese or English) with your classmates and teacher. Then write your opinion in English.

- **1.** Would you like to visit the Afan forest in Nagano? Give a reason for your answer.
- 2. Do you think Japan needs more woodlands like Afan? Why or why not?
- 3. What kind of person is Mr. Nicol, do you think?