SAGA CITY CROW CULLING PROGRAMME

Annual Capture and Kill Records: FY2014–FY2025

Project Sunrise — Civic Documentation Series

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1. Note on Japanese Fiscal Years (年度)

In Japan, the fiscal year (年度, nendo) runs from **1 April to 31 March** of the following calendar year — not from January to December. FY2014 (平成 26 年度) therefore covers 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. FY2025 (令和 7 年度) covers 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. All figures in this document follow the Japanese fiscal year convention.

Japan uses two parallel year-naming systems: the Western (Gregorian) calendar and the imperial era (元号, gengō) system. The current era is 令和 **(Reiwa)**, which began on 1 May 2019. The previous era was 平成 **(Heisei)**, which ran from 1989 to 2019. Both systems are used in official Japanese documents.

2. Background

Saga City (佐賀市), the capital of Saga Prefecture in northern Kyushu, Japan, has operated a crow trapping and culling programme using cage traps since at least FY2014. The programme is administered under annual commission contracts with the Saga Prefecture Hunters Association, Saga Branch (佐賀県猟友会佐賀支部), and is managed by the Environmental Policy Section (環境政策課) of Saga City Hall.

The programme operates under harmful wildlife capture permits (有害鳥獣捕獲許可) issued under the Act on Conservation and Management of Birds and Mammals (鳥獣保護管理法, Act No. 88 of 2002), and is subject to the 13th Saga Prefectural Wildlife Protection and Management Plan (第 13 次佐賀県鳥獣保護管理事業計画, FY2022–FY2027) as its governing policy framework.

Cage trap sites are distributed across Saga City and adjacent areas. In FY2025, sites included: Saga City Memorial Hall (市村記念体育館), JA Country (JA カントリー), and Hase-machi (嘉瀬町), among others. The programme covers Saga City, Kanzaki City (神埼市), and Yoshinogari Town (吉野ヶ里町).

3. Annual Kill Figures: FY2014–FY2020

Source type: Written communication (personal communication — not independently retrievable).

The original commission contracts, invoices, and capture logs for FY2014–FY2020 were destroyed prior to the FOI request described in Section 4, in accordance with standard Japanese public document retention schedules. The annual totals below were communicated in writing by Saga City Hall, Environmental Policy Section (佐賀市環境政策課), on 10 April 2026 (16:43 JST), in response to a written enquiry. Because the

primary documents no longer exist, these figures are not independently verifiable by third parties.

The species breakdown (ハシブトガラス / Jungle Crow vs. ハシボソガラス / Carrion Crow) for FY2014–FY2020 is not available; only aggregate annual totals were provided.

Fiscal Year	Japanese Year / 和暦	Birds Killed	Source
FY2014	平成 26 年度	541	Written communication, Environmental Policy Section (環境政策課), Saga City Hall, 10 April 2026. Original records destroyed.
FY2015	平成 27 年度	911	Written communication, Environmental Policy Section (環境政策課), Saga City Hall, 10 April 2026. Original records destroyed.
FY2016	平成 28 年度	757	Written communication, Environmental Policy Section (環境政策課), Saga City Hall, 10 April 2026. Original records destroyed.
FY2017	平成 29 年度	829	Written communication, Environmental Policy Section (環境政策課), Saga City Hall, 10 April 2026. Original records destroyed.
FY2018	平成 30 年度	1,288	Written communication, Environmental Policy Section (環境政策課), Saga City Hall, 10 April 2026. Original records destroyed.
FY2019	平成 31/令和元年度	1,513	Written communication, Environmental Policy Section (環境政策課), Saga City Hall, 10 April 2026. Original records destroyed.
FY2020	令和 2 年度	1,479	Written communication, Environmental Policy Section (環境政策課), Saga City Hall, 10 April 2026. Original records destroyed.
Sub-total / 小計 (FY2014–FY2020)		**7,318**	

** FY2019 straddles two imperial eras: it began as Heisei 31 (平成 31 年度) on 1 April 2019 and became Reiwa 1 (令和元年度) from 1 May 2019.*

4. Annual Kill Figures: FY2021–FY2025

Source type: FOI document — primary documentary evidence (retrievable).

The figures for FY2021–FY2025 are drawn from the official capture and disposal results table (捕獲処分実績) disclosed by Saga City Hall, Environmental Policy Section (佐賀市環境政策課), on 2 April 2026, in response to a formal Freedom of Information request (公文書公開請求) submitted under Article 10 of the Saga City Information Disclosure Ordinance (佐賀市情報公開条例, Ordinance No. 14 of 2005).

For FY2021–FY2025, the species breakdown between Jungle Crow (ハシブトガラス, Corvus macrorhynchos) and Carrion Crow (ハシボソガラス, Corvus corone) is available and shown below. In all five fiscal years, the official records show zero (0) Rooks (ミヤマガラス, Corvus frugilegus) captured.

FY	Japanese Year / 和暦	Total	ハシブト	ハシボソ	Rooks / ミヤマガラス
FY2021	令和 3 年度	**949**	71	878	*0 (not recorded in official document)*
FY2022	令和 4 年度	**923**	117	806	*0 (not recorded in official document)*
FY2023	令和 5 年度	**1,357**	295	1,062	*0 (not recorded in official document)*
FY2024	令和 6 年度	**1,587**	406	1,181	*0 (not recorded in official document)*
FY2025	令和 7 年度	**1,775**	350	1,425	*0 (not recorded in official document)*
Sub-total / 小計 (FY2021–FY2025)		**6,591**	1,239	5,352	

5. Combined Total: FY2014–FY2025

FY2014–FY2020 (written communication)	**7,318**	
FY2021–FY2025 (FOI document — retrievable)	**6,591**	
TOTAL / 合計 (FY2014–FY2025)	**13,909**	

References

Saga City Hall, Environmental Policy Section [佐賀市環境政策課]. (2026, April 2). 捕獲処分実績 令和 3〜7 年度 [Capture and disposal results, FY2021–FY2025]. Document disclosed in response to a formal Freedom of Information request (公文書公開請求) under Article 10 of the Saga City Information Disclosure Ordinance (佐賀市情報公開条例, Ordinance No. 14 of 2005). [FOI document — retrievable]

Note: Annual kill totals for FY2014–FY2020 were communicated in writing by Saga City Hall, Environmental Policy Section (佐賀市環境政策課), on 10 April 2026 (16:43 JST), in response to a written enquiry. Original capture records for this period were destroyed prior to the FOI request in accordance with standard Japanese public document retention schedules. In accordance with APA 7th edition guidelines, written communications that are not retrievable by readers are cited as personal communications in the text only and do not appear as reference list entries: (Saga City Hall, Environmental Policy Section [佐賀市環境政策課], written communication, April 2026).

This document was prepared through collaboration between Stephanie Ann Houghton and Claude Sonnet 4.6 by Anthropic. Full responsibility lies with Stephanie Ann Houghton.

本文書は、Stephanie Ann Houghton と Anthropic 社の Claude Sonnet 4.6 との協働により作成されました。全ての責任は Stephanie Ann Houghton にあります。