



Celebrate Crane Day!

Saturday, October 25th

Tours by Bus at 8am *and* 10am (Reservations Recommended)

Meet at the Merced National Wildlife Refuge Entrance Kiosk

7430 W. Sandy Mush Road, Merced, CA 95340

Contact Jack Sparks or Rich Albers for More Information (209) 826-3508



Celebrate the return of the Sandhill Cranes to Merced County by visiting the Merced National Wildlife Refuge on October 25, 2008 for the Crane Day birdwatching tours.

On October 25th, Refuge staff will lead guided bus tours to showcase the Lesser Sandhill Cranes that make the Merced National Wildlife Refuge their winter home. The Refuge and surrounding landscape are home to the largest wintering concentration of Lesser Sandhill Cranes along the Pacific Flyway, with as many as 20,000 cranes spending the winter on the Refuge. These 4-foot tall birds with 6-foot wingspans breed in northern Canada, Alaska, and Siberia and mate for life. The public is invited to come view these magnificent birds and learn about their natural history and Refuge management through guided tours.

***New* this year, tours will be by bus and space is limited. The first tour will depart at 8:00am and will last approximately 1.5 hours. A second tour will depart at 10:00am. Space is limited on the bus, so reservations are encouraged; seats remaining after reservations have been called will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call (209) 826-3508 to reserve your spot.**

Directions: The Refuge entrance is on the south side of Sandy Mush Road approximately 8 miles west of Highway 59. If traveling from the south, take Hwy 152 to Hwy 59 north to Sandy Mush Road. If traveling from the north, use Hwy 99 south and connect with Hwy 59 south in Merced. Continue on Hwy 59 south to Sandy Mush Road.