



SEE THE CRANES

1. Around the Visitor Center

By Foot: The Preserve's Wetlands Walk trail and adjoining boardwalk feature ideal habitat for visiting cranes and waterfowl. Please enjoy the trails between sunrise and sunset.

By Car: There is excellent viewing west of Franklin Boulevard, along Desmond Road, and beside Bruceville Road, south of Twin Cities Road. The best chances for sightings occur during dawn and dusk. Please drive carefully and pull off to the shoulder if you wish to stop.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ENJOY THE BIRDS, BUT PLEASE DO SO FROM A DISTANCE BY STAYING ON THE DESIGNATED TRAILS AND OFF OF THE PRESERVE'S LEVEES AND ROADS.

2. Staten Island Road

Cranes, and other migratory birds, are attracted to the flooded crop lands on Staten Island. Quite often thousands of birds can be seen flying over Staten Island during the fall, winter and spring. Look for tundra swans, white-fronted geese, as well as both lesser and greater sandhill cranes.

Please be advised, the "NO PUBLIC ACCESS" sign is in place to make visitors aware that all levees, farm roads and fields are private. Visitors may only drive or walk on the main road, which is Staten Island Road. The paved road transitions to gravel approximately 2 miles in and public access terminates after about 4 miles. There is a sign indicating where the public road ends and vehicles may use the turnout by the water tower to reverse their course.

The corn harvest occurs in early fall (October) and visitors should avoid wildlife viewing on Staten Island for safety reasons. Please check with the Preserve before planning a visit to this area during this time.

Directions from the Visitor Center: Take Franklin Boulevard south and continue onto Thornton Road. Turn right onto Walnut Grove Road. After about 4 miles you will turn left onto Staten Island Road. You will see a large corn dryer on your right. Stop at the kiosk for information and continue down Staten Island Road for viewing opportunities.

3. Woodbridge Ecological Reserve

Also known as the Isenberg Sandhill Crane Reserve, the fields managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regularly attract large numbers of sandhill cranes during the fall and winter. There are several turnouts along Woodbridge Road, allowing the public to safely park vehicles for bird viewing. CDFW offers fall, docent-led tours of the Reserve.

Directions from the Visitor Center: Take Franklin Boulevard south and continue onto Thornton Road. Turn right onto Walnut Grove Road and take Interstate 5 south to the Peltier exit. Go east for a short distance and turn right onto Thornton Road (Frontage Road). Drive on Thornton Road for approximately 2 miles, then turn right at Woodbridge Road. Travel approximately 2.5 miles to the first turnout.

