



Press Release

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In Search of Crane Counters!

On Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 5:30 am to 7:30 am, the International Crane Foundation (ICF) will sponsor the 37th Annual Midwest Crane Count and you are invited to participate! The count has grown to over 3,000 volunteers in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa and Indiana.

The Count is used to monitor the general population trend of Sandhill Cranes in the Upper Midwest, as well as to promote awareness of cranes and wetland conservation throughout the Count area.

New volunteers interested in taking part should first contact their local county coordinator. Visit www.cranecount.org for the list of 2012 County Coordinators.

The nonprofit International Crane Foundation (ICF) sponsors the Annual Midwest Crane Count as a part of its efforts to preserve and study the world's 15 species of cranes and the natural communities on which they depend. Sandhill Cranes once experienced severe population declines in the late 1800s to early 1900s in the upper Midwest, but have recovered successfully.

The Annual Midwest Crane Count has documented the growth of the Sandhill Crane population, and allows ICF to monitor crane abundance and distribution. Observations of the abundant Sandhill Cranes can lend insight into the endangered crane species of the world. One local example is the flock of Whooping Cranes being released in central Wisconsin and led on migration to the Gulf coast of Florida by ultralight aircraft. Whooping Cranes from this project have been known to land in both Lake and McHenry Counties during their migrations. Participants may have a chance of sighting a Whooping Crane during the count.

For more information on the Midwest Crane Count: Visit www.cranecount.org or call Kate Fitzwilliams, 608-356-9462 ext. 147 or cranecount@savingcranes.org

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