

Listen closely and you will hear  
the voice of a marsh-dwelling god



### Living Conditions of the Japanese Crane

Outside Japan, approximately 1,400 Japanese cranes live in the Amur River basin in Russia and northeastern China. Within Japan, they can be seen in eastern Hokkaido throughout the year. Of the various species of cranes, this is the only one that breeds in Japan.

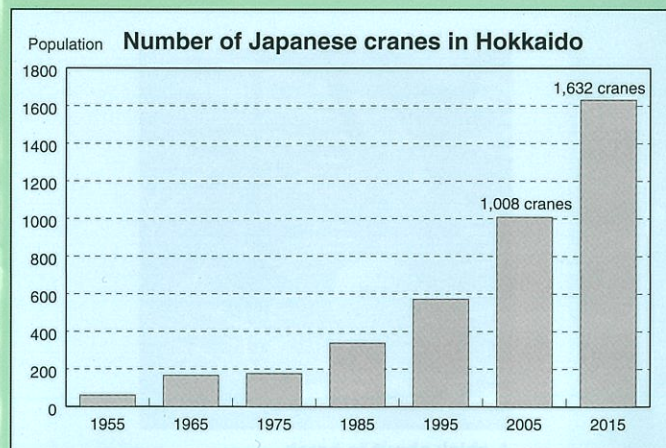
Since 1952, a general survey on the Japanese crane population has been conducted every winter. According to the fiscal year 2015 survey, the number of birds exceeded 1,600.

### Four Seasons of the Japanese Crane

In mid-March, Japanese cranes move from feeding stations in Akan-cho in Kushiro City and Tsurui Village to marshes elsewhere, and use reeds to start nesting.

After completing their nests, Japanese cranes lay one or two eggs measuring approximately 10 centimeters in length. Male and female cranes take turns incubating the eggs for periods of about a month, after which the chicks hatch. The chicks grow to the same size as their parents within approximately 100 days of their birth, and soon learn to fly.

In winter, most Japanese cranes gather around feeding stations.



\* The terms sarurun and sarurun kamuy respectively mean cranes (or Japanese cranes) and a marsh-dwelling god in the Ainu language.

# TANCHO

Kushiro Crane Reserve



**Kushiro Crane Reserve** **KUSHIRO CITY**

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## Special Natural Monument

### Japanese Crane/Red-crowned Crane

Scientific name: *Grus japonensis*

Japanese cranes appear in old Japanese folk tales, and were seen in various parts of Japan until the Edo period. In and after the Meiji era, however, the birds disappeared from view due to their dwindling population. In 1924, more than 10 Japanese cranes were discovered in Kushiro Marsh, and locals have endeavored to protect them ever since. Japanese cranes were designated as a special natural monument of Japan in 1952.

### History of the Kushiro Crane Reserve

In August 1958, the Kushiro Crane Reserve was opened with the release of five Japanese cranes in Kushiro's Tsuruoka area with the aim of protecting and propagating this endangered species.

In the early days, staff at the reserve did not know the ecology of the crane and thus underwent a trial and error learning process. They finally succeeded in natural hatching after 10 years of attempts at reproduction, followed by the success of artificial hatching in 1970. Since then, they have bred a number of cranes.

A complete overhaul of the reserve's buildings, including the management office, started in 1987 and took two years to complete. With the establishment of a lecture room and an exhibition space, the site was improved not only as an observation facility but also as an academic institution. At present, about 20 Japanese cranes roam the reserve.

The site was placed under the management of Kushiro Zoo in April 2000, and efforts have been made to promote the protection and propagation of Japanese cranes through collaboration with the zoo's Japanese Crane Conservation and Propagation Center.



**A chick about to hatch**

(The beak can be seen protruding through the shell.)

### Admission prices

Ticket	Price	
	Individuals	Groups (15 or more people)
Adults (high school students and older)	¥ 480	¥ 384
Elementary and junior high school students	¥ 110	¥ 88

The admission prices listed above are per person per entry and include consumption tax.

— Infants are admitted free of charge.

### Hours

(Summer) April 10 – October 14 / 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

(Winter) October 15 – April 9 / 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Closed December 31 – January 3

### Map

**6 km and 9 minutes by car to Kushiro Zoo**



## TANCHO



**Get an up-close look at Japanese cranes**

Place a commemorative stamp here.