

Tour # 3025 Early Morning Fly-out with Dr. Gary Ivey

TOUR DATE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

TOUR TIME: 5:30– 7:00 a.m.

DESCRIPTION: Early morning fly-outs are special. It is so peaceful at the [Woodbridge Ecological Reserve](#) as the night gives way to scarlet colors in the east. The air is usually misty, and the wetlands are filled with ghostly figures. As the sun begins to rise, Sandhill Cranes begin their rattled calls. Then one of the leaders leans forward and dozens of cranes leap to the sky. Then more and more groups begin their flight to the surrounding fields to forage. Best of all, Dr. Gary Ivey will be there to share his knowledge and answer your questions. Depending on weather and the Sandhill Cranes, your group will do some roving along Woodbridge Road to watch them as they are feeding. The early morning can be foggy so drive carefully. Woodbridge Road is narrow with deep canals along some stretches.

DIRECTIONS: From the North on Interstate 5, exit on Peltier Road and drive South on the frontage road two miles to Woodbridge Road. From the South on Interstate 5, exit on Turner Road and drive North on the frontage road one mile to Woodbridge Road. This tour begins in the dark at the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve NORTH UNIT parking lot, located 2 miles West of Interstate 5 on Woodbridge Road. Watch for the sign on your right. Be sure to allow extra time to arrive, as there may be morning rain or fog.

INSTRUCTIONS: **It is critical that we not disturb the Sandhill Cranes in their roosting area.** When we leave the parking lot, turn your head lights to the dimmest setting possible (practice the evening before the tour so you can determine this setting). Drive slowly to the viewing area, making as little noise as possible. Move quickly and quietly to the viewing shelter. Turn off the flash on your camera or smart phone (practice doing this ahead of time). Sit down on a bench and stay inside the shelter.

DRIVE TIME: Drive time from Hutchins Street Square in Lodi, California to this tour is approximately 20 minutes. The most direct route to Interstate 5 from Hutchins Street Square is on E. Kettleman Lane (Highway 12).

LANDS PASS: A Lands Pass or hunting or fishing license is required for this tour. Click [here](#) for more information about how to purchase a Lands Pass. You will be required to show your pass or license.

TRANSPORTATION: Participants drive their personal vehicles. You will be asked to carpool when we drive from the parking lot to the shelter.

CHECK-IN: Meet Dr. Ivey at 5:15 a.m. in the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve NORTH parking lot. After check in, you will drive a short distance on a gravel road to the shelter. Please park with your headlights facing away from the fence.

NOTE: It will be dark when you arrive at the parking lot. It would be good to have a flashlight with red lens for check-in. We will want to see your Lands Pass. Please help us so we don't startle the cranes by keeping quiet, limiting your movements, and turning off the flash on your camera