What You Can Do and You Can't.

Keep distance from Tancho

Never step beyond the fences to enter the feeding area.

Use binoculars or tele-photo lenses, if you want close-up pictures.

Be silent and calm

Watch Tancho quietly and peacefully. Tancho Cranes can easily be panicked by a sudden big sound and movement.

No flash-light

Tancho can easily be panicked by flashing lights.

Take possible best shots in natural settings.

Never give Tancho a handout

Don't feed wildlife, keep it wild.
Only officially appointed persons can feed Tancho.

Feeding is limited only during winter seasons.

Don't throw away any garbage and litters

Tancho Cranes tend to pick up glittering objects and easily swallow them.

Cigarette butts you throw away might kill Tancho.



Why We Feed Tancho?

Tancho was once faced to nearly-extinction by over-hunting / harvesting and habitat loss.

The population number once had dropped to less than twenty in the past.

However, their population has grown to over 1,000 by feeding activities during winter which were begun by local residents.

Although feeding is conducted to make up for food shortages during winter, it can cause serious dependency problems. Improper feeding will cause traffic accidents or damage to agriculture and livestock breeding as a result of the birds getting accustomed to people. Therefore, we have set rules at official feeding stations regarding feeding methods and periods. Also, we are trying to improve private feeding methods or stop feeding Tancho in some cases.

Tancho (adult)
Exact size of
left footprint

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Tancho guide

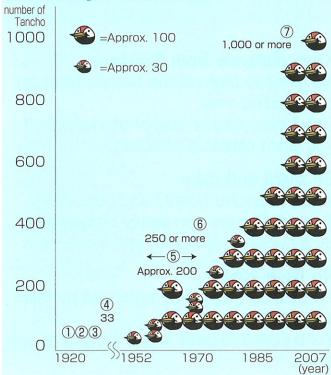


Tancho is a Japanese vernacular name of the Red-crowned crane, *Grus japonensis*. 'Tan' means red and 'cho'means top.

Kushiro Nature Conservation Office, Ministry of the Environment



Change in Tancho population and major events



①Late Edo period~early Meiji era:

Tancho drastically decreased in number due to excessive hunting and other reasons, and were believed to have become extinct in Japan.

@1926:

Tancho were rediscovered in the Kushiro Wetland.

3)1946:

The Kushiro Tancho Preservation Council began trying to feed and monitor Tancho.

4)1952:

The council succeeded in feeding Tancho. A population survey was conducted (33 birds).

(5)1965~mid 1970s:

Accidents including those in which Tancho crashed into electric wires increased.

@Late 1970s~:

Some measures were taken to prevent Tancho from crashing into electric wires in cooperation with a power company and other organizations. The bird population began to increase gradually.

72005:

The population exceeded 1,000.