

**December 15, 2023**  
**Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey**

This is the Sandhill Crane ground count survey for the week of December 11 – December 15, 2023.

The Barren River Lake and Hardin County surveys will be conducted most weeks this winter. Most cranes counted at Barren River Lake in late November left for warmer pastures as is typical for early arrivals. Crane numbers for this area picked up this week, many coming into roost fifteen minutes after sunset. The main roost may move farther downstream in the coming weeks. Hardin County saw some rain this past week, but it all went into the ground again. Crane numbers still very low.

The Kentucky 2023-24 Sandhill Crane season opened December 7, 2023, and is open until January 31, 2024. This is concurrent with the second segment of duck season. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable time afield.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Barren River Lake WMA  <i>12/11/2023</i>	438 Sandhill Cranes	Lake being drained slowly. Lake level: 528.3'
Hardin County  <i>12/13/2023</i>	6 Sandhill Cranes	Dry with roost site being a mudflat.