

January 30, 2026

Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

This is the Sandhill Crane ground count survey for the week of January 26-30, 2026.

The Kentucky 2025-26 Sandhill Crane season opened December 7, 2025 and is open until January 31, 2026. This is concurrent with the second segment of duck season. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable time afield.

Location	Number	Comments
Barren River Lake WMA <i>1/28/2026</i>	3771	3760 in Skaggs Creek/Beaver Creek, 11 in Peters Creek, 0 in Walnut Creek. Roads are in bad shape (ice), so access is limited and count is incomplete. Several eagles observed. Cranes flew into roost until it was too dark to see them, maybe because of snow reflection made it brighter than normal. 2 inches of ice/snow on the ground so they can't feed easily in the fields. Not many were calling. Temps have been below freezing for a week so 80% of the lower lake is iced over. River and creeks are still ice free. Lake 533.7(5.7) up 0.8ft. in the last 24 hours. 0.0 inches of rain last 24 hours. Lake being drained slow(425CFS).
Hardin County <i>Not surveyed</i>		

Figure 1. Sandhill crane captured on trail camera in Magoffin County on January 26, 2026.

