

December 08, 2023
Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

This is the Sandhill Crane ground count survey for the week of December 04 – December 08, 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 have left for warmer pastures as is typical for these early arrivals. This is the first survey of the season for Hardin County. Local reports for Hardin County suggest a few cranes on and off in the past month.

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.

Location	Number	Comments
Barren River Lake WMA <i>12/05/2023</i>	0 Sandhill Cranes	Heard a few cranes in the distance but didn't see any. Lake being drained moderately. Lake level: 528.4'
Hardin County <i>12/05/2023</i>	21 Sandhill Cranes	Extremely dry with mudflats at the roost site. Ground count taken at 11am.

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.

Location	Number	Comments
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.

December 22, 2023 Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

This is the Sandhill Crane ground count survey for the week of December 18 – December 22, 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 two weeks ago and remained about the same this week. Hardin County crane numbers remain 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.

Location	Number	Comments
Barren River Lake WMA <i>12/19/2023</i>	454 Sandhill Cranes	Lake being drained slowly. No rain this week. Lake level: 528.2'
Hardin County <i>12/20/2023</i>	0 Sandhill Cranes	Dry with roost site a mudflat.

January 05, 2024 Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

Happy New Year! This is the Sandhill Crane ground count survey for the week of January 2 – January 5, 2024.

The Barren River Lake and Hardin County surveys are conducted most weeks this winter. Lots of cranes were heard in Peters Creek Tuesday morning but they did not show up for the afternoon roost count. Hardin County crane numbers remain the same as previous weeks.

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.

Location	Number	Comments
Barren River Lake WMA <i>01/02/2024</i>	205 Sandhill Cranes	Lake being drained slowly. No rain this week. Lake level: 528.0'
Hardin County <i>01/02/2024</i>	0 Sandhill Cranes	Dry with roost site a mudflat.

January 12, 2024
Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

Happy New Year! This is the Sandhill Crane ground count survey for the week of January 08 – January 12, 2024.

The Barren River Lake and Hardin County surveys are conducted most weeks this winter. Some rain and cold weather this past week. Another 0.63 inches of rain forecast for Jan 12 and coldest temperatures of the season and snow for next week.

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.

Location	Number	Comments
Barren River Lake WMA <i>01/10/2024</i>	344 Sandhill Cranes	Lake being drained slowly. Lake level: 529.1'
Hardin County <i>01/11/2024</i>	19 Sandhill Cranes	Roost finally has some water in it.

January 19, 2024
Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

This is the Sandhill Crane ground count survey for the week of January 15 – January 19, 2024.

The Barren River Lake and Hardin County surveys are conducted most weeks this winter. Coldest temperatures we have had occurred this week. Barren River had an increase in numbers, Hardin County remains about the same with very low numbers.

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.

Location	Number	Comments
Barren River Lake WMA <i>01/17/2024</i>	1940 Sandhill Cranes	Lake being drained moderately. Lake level: 529.8'
Hardin County <i>01/17/2024</i>	0 Sandhill Cranes	Roost is covered in snow and likely frozen. Maybe an inch of snow covering the fields.

January 26, 2024
Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

This is the Sandhill Crane ground count survey for the week of January 22 – January 26, 2024.

The Barren River Lake and Hardin County surveys are conducted most weeks this winter. This week gave us rain and warmer temperatures following last week's frigid temperatures. Barren River had an increase in numbers, Hardin County remains about the same with low numbers.

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.

Location	Number	Comments
Barren River Lake WMA <i>01/24/2024</i>	4040 Sandhill Cranes	
Hardin County <i>01/24/2024</i>	64 Sandhill Cranes	Roost is full of water. The recent snow melt and rain has slightly flooded many surrounding fields.

February 02, 2024
Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

This is the Sandhill Crane ground count survey for the week of January 29 – February 2, 2024.

The Barren River Lake and Hardin County surveys are conducted most weeks this winter. This week gave us some rain and warmer temperatures. We had an influx of numbers at each location this week. Locals reporting thousands of cranes flying north.

The Kentucky 2023-24 Sandhill Crane season opened December 7, 2023, and closed January 31, 2024. This is concurrent with the second segment of duck season.

Location	Number	Comments
Barren River Lake WMA <i>01/29/2024</i>	6942 Sandhill Cranes	Lake being drained moderately. Lake level: 532.9"
Hardin County <i>01/30/2024</i> <i>02/01/2024</i>	665 Sandhill Cranes 883 Sandhill Cranes	Water present in roost.

February 09, 2024
Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

This is the Sandhill Crane ground count survey for the week of February 5 – February 9, 2024.

The Barren River Lake and Hardin County surveys are conducted most weeks this winter. This week gave us warmer weather with highs in the 60s and no rain.

The Kentucky 2023-24 Sandhill Crane season opened December 7, 2023, and closed January 31, 2024. This is concurrent with the second segment of duck season.

Location	Number	Comments
Barren River Lake WMA <i>02/05/2024</i>	1058 Sandhill Cranes	Lake being drained moderately. Lake level: 529.3"
Hardin County <i>Not surveyed</i>		

February 16, 2024
Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

This is the Sandhill Crane ground count survey for the week of February 12 – February 16, 2024.

This is the last survey of the year for Barren River Lake. The Barren River Lake and Hardin County surveys were conducted most weeks this winter. Early this week we had mild and sunny weather leading into some colder temperatures at the end of the week and anticipating another rise for next week.

The Kentucky 2023-24 Sandhill Crane season opened December 7, 2023, and closed January 31, 2024. This is concurrent with the second segment of duck season.

Location	Number	Comments
Barren River Lake WMA <i>02/14/2024</i>	574 Sandhill cranes	Thousands of cranes flying in waves heading NW. Lake rising rapidly. Lake level: 536.1"
Hardin County <i>02/14/2024</i>	2,723 Sandhill cranes	Roost full of water and flooding in some fields where feeding.