

December 18, 2020
Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

This is the Sandhill crane ground count survey for December 15-16, 2020. Barren River Lake is being drained slowly to reach winter pool. On 12/15, the lake level was 531.1 and rising. This is up 3.3 feet from last week is about 6.1 feet above winter pool. The roost sites in Hardin County produced a good amount of cranes this week (~700). A few smaller groups of cranes were spotted feeding in harvest crop fields in the area. There are plenty of harvested crop fields in the area and roost ponds have increased amounts of water due to recent rainfall.

The Kentucky 2020-21 Sandhill crane season opens Monday, December 7, and runs to Sunday, January 31. This is concurrent with the second segment of duck season.

Location	Number	Comments
Barren River Lake WMA	1953 Sandhill Cranes	Lake level (12/15): 531.1ft rising 2.5ft in within 24 hours of the survey. However, the lake is still being drained slowly.
Hardin County	787 Sandhill Cranes	The majority of cranes were spotted coming off the roost ponds this week. With recent rainfall, roost ponds have increased amounts of water hopefully leading to fewer frozen over roost sites.