

December 9, 2020
Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

This is the Sandhill crane ground count survey for December 8-9, 2020. Barren River Lake is being drained slowly to reach winter pool. On 12/8, the lake level was 528.9 and falling. This is up 0.1 feet from last week, but is still about 3.5 feet above winter pool. The roost sites in Hardin County still have not produced birds during the survey. However, a small group of birds were spotted feeding this week. There are plenty of harvested crop fields in the area and roost ponds have water but have been freezing over.

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	112 Sandhill Cranes	Lake level (12/8): 528.9 and draining slowly.
Hardin County	7 Sandhill Cranes	All known roost ponds were frozen over this week and haven't produced birds yet. A small group of birds were spotted feeding this week in harvested crop fields.