

February 9, 2021
Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey

This is the Sandhill crane ground count survey for February 9th, 2021. Barren River Lake is being drained quickly to reach winter pool. On 2/9, the lake level was 532.4. This is up 4.4 feet from last week is about 7 feet above winter pool. The roost sites in Hardin County produced are producing consistent amounts of cranes with the majority of cranes moving into the area later in the afternoon to feed. The overall habitat conditions are looking average with some roost sites being frozen over and portions of crops fields likely to be covered from upcoming snowstorms.

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	869 Sandhill Cranes	Lake level (2/9): 532.4ft and draining fast. Large numbers of cranes in the area but moved out of the survey area before the start of the survey period.
Hardin County	2763 Sandhill Cranes	The majority of cranes were spotted feeding in large groups later in the morning and into the afternoon. With upcoming snowstorms, harvested crop fields are likely to become covered in snow and less available to cranes.