

VIEWING TIPS

For your safety & safety of the birds.

- » Do not stop on major paved roadways.
- » Do not attempt to approach the birds.
- » It is illegal and a disturbance to other birdwatchers to harass cranes and other birds in any matter.
- » Use your vehicle as a “blind” and stay in your car. (Window mounts for scopes and cameras work well.)
- » Most land on the Platte River is private property. Please respect the land owners and do not trespass.
- » Do not stop abruptly if you see a flock of birds from the road. The person behind you may not be a crane watcher.
- » Allow farm machinery and local traffic to pass by pulling over.
- » Be prepared for cold temperatures (the discovery stations do not have heat). Dark clothes, warm hats, boots and gloves are recommended.



Photo Credit: Rona Schwarz

Let us help you.

Staff can direct you to crane viewing sites as well as other area attractions.

» KEARNEY VISITORS BUREAU «

1007 2nd Avenue 308-237-3178

WEEKDAYS...8AM-5PM

SATURDAY....9AM-5PM

» NEBRASKA VISITORS CENTER «

3060 E 1st Street (inside Archway)

Open March 7 - April 11

WEEKDAYS...8AM-5PM

SATURDAY....9AM-5PM

SUNDAY.....1PM-4PM

Find more information visit
VISITKEARNEY.ORG

KEARNEY NEBRASKA

Located on I-80 just minutes from the Platte River.

The crane migration is just one of over 1,350 events Kearney hosts each year. Combined with our cultural attractions, restaurants and welcoming hospitality, Cranes love Kearney and so will you!

1800
HOTEL
ROOMS

125+
EATERIES

10
MUSEUMS

25
MILES OF
TRAILS

Kearney where the Heartland gathers «



*Experience the sites & sounds
of the Sandhill Crane migration*

Spring

MID FEBRUARY TO MID APRIL



Photo Credit: Don Brockmeier

NOW OFFERING:

Daily nonstop jet service from Kearney to
Denver (DIA) & Chicago (ORD)

Flights operated by SkyWest Airlines.

Book today at **united.com**



Kearney - Nebraska

**THE SANDHILL CRANE
CAPITAL OF THE WORLD**

**Experience the
great migration!**

For eight weeks from late February to early April, the fascinating Sandhill Crane Spring Migration happens in the heart of Nebraska. More than 80 percent of the world's Sandhill Crane population converge on Nebraska's Platte River. The Sandhill Cranes fly from southern wintering grounds to northern breeding grounds in Canada, Alaska & Siberia. They stop along the Platte to rest & gain body fat as they prepare for their journey. Fossils dating back nine million years have been discovered in Nebraska.

Other wildlife such as Whooping Cranes, eagles, ducks, geese & shorebirds also migrate through Central Nebraska during this time.

It is an enchanting sight. One that can only be truly appreciated in person.

**Crane
WATCH
— 2020 —**



Photo Credit: Mike Fernandez

Crane viewing experiences



Iain Nicolson
Audubon Center
at Rowe Sanctuary

Special Events

Public Viewing Sites

Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary

44450 Elm Island Road, Gibbon, NE

CRANE SEASON VISITOR CENTER

February 15 - April 15, 8am-5:30pm

GUIDED VIEWING EXPERIENCE

No tripods or continuous mode photography

\$40/person, Approx. 2-3 hours

Tour Groups average 30 people

March 6 & March 7, 5am & 5pm

March 8 - April 12, 6am & 6pm

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Tripods & continuous mode photography allowed

Guided: \$100/person, Approx. 2-3 hours

March 13 - April 11, 6am & 6pm

Participants walk and carry their own gear to and from their tour.

Overnight: \$250/blind, 14-16 Hours

Two person max

March 15 - April 6, 4:45pm

Participants and their gear are transported to and from their tour.

INDOOR VIEWING EXPERIENCE

\$20/person, Approx. 2-3 hours

March 6-April 12, Daily (except Wednesdays)

Ideal for those with mobility issues or families with small children.

FAMILY CRANE VIEWING EXPERIENCE

\$20/person, Approx. 2-3 hours

March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1, 8

Prices do not include taxes and fees.

No flash photography, policies listed online.

Reservations required for all crane viewing experiences.

Reservations open on January 2, 2020

Reserve your spot at

rowe.audubon.org

or call **308-468-5282**

Cancellations are refundable up to 14 days prior to your date with a 5% refund charge.



Photo Credit: Martin Knippel

LEARN MORE

Crane Behavior Basics:

March 6-April 12 \$10/person + fees

Registration required.

AUDUBON NEBRASKA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CRANE FESTIVAL

March 20-21, 2020 at the Holiday Inn

Bringing together hundreds of crane lovers from around the country to listen to and interact with environmental speakers and take part in incredible field trips.

Keynote Speakers: Dr. George Archibald and Dr. Drew Lanham

Visit ne.audubon.org for more details.

CRANE CARNIVAL

April 4, 2020 10am-2pm at Rowe Sanctuary

A free family event full of crane related educational activities.

NEW for 2020

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES

Monday & Friday mid March through early April - \$15/Person

Learn tips & tricks using your mobile phone to better capture your adventures.

For more information visit:

visitkearney.org

Sunrise and sunset are prime viewing times on the river. During the day, the cranes are in the fields eating.

A Nebraska State Park Permit is required at state parks. This can be purchased at the Fort Kearny Visitor Center.

FORT KEARNY STATE HISTORICAL PARK & VISITOR CENTER

1020 V Road (Hwy 50A) Kearney, NE
outdoornebraska.gov/fortkearney 308-865-5305

Open Daily: 9am-5pm, March 2 - April 7

Stop at the visitors center and view an 18-minute video about the migration. Staff are on hand to answer questions and direct you to the best viewing locations.

FORT KEARNY STATE REC AREA HIKE/BIKE BRIDGE

1/4 mile East of Fort Kearny Historical Park. 2196 30 Road, Kearney, NE

The old railroad bridge spans over the Platte River, making it the perfect spot for sunrise or sunset viewing. It's about a 300 yard walk from the parking area. Camping and other wildlife opportunities are also available.

PLAUTZ VIEWING PLATFORM

1.5 miles south of 1-80 Exit 285 (Gibbon)
cpnrd.org/crane-viewing-sites

CPNRD has crane and waterfowl viewing decks along the Platte River with free parking.

