

**December 2, 2020**  
**Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey**

This is the Sandhill crane ground count survey for December 1-2, 2020. Barren River Lake is being drained slowly to reach winter pool. On 12/1, the lake level was 528.8 and falling. This is down 1.9 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, the first 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.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Barren River Lake WMA	117 Sandhill Cranes	Lake level (12/1): 528.8 and draining slowly.
Hardin County	10 Sandhill Cranes	All known roost ponds were frozen over this week and haven't produced birds yet. The first group of birds were spotted feeding this week in crop fields.

**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.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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.

**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.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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.

**December 30, 2020**  
**Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey**

This is the Sandhill crane ground count survey for December 28-29, 2020. Barren River Lake is still a little high. On 12/28, the lake level was 528.7 and falling but still 3.7 feet above winter pool. The roost sites in Hardin County are producing some birds although the majority of roost sites are still empty.

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

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Barren River Lake WMA	3,680 Sandhill Cranes	Lake level (12/28): 528.7 and falling.
Hardin County	126 Sandhill Cranes	Some roost ponds are consistently holding some birds. The majority of roost sites are holding good amounts of water with no birds. Overall, habitat conditions are favorable.

**February 9, 2021**  
**Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey**

This is the Sandhill crane ground count survey for February 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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.

**January 15, 2021**  
**Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey**

This is the Sandhill crane ground count survey for January 15th, 2021. Barren River Lake is still above winter pool at 528.2 (~3ft above winter pool). The roost sites in Hardin County are producing good amounts of birds with the largest groups of birds being spotted while feeding. Overall the habitat conditions look good.

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<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Barren River Lake WMA	3542 Sandhill Cranes	Lake level (1/12): 528.2 and falling. Some disturbances caused cranes to enter the roost sites later than usual.
Hardin County	200 Sandhill Cranes	Roost ponds produced good amounts of birds this week with the largest groups of birds being spotted while feeding. Overall habitat conditions look good.

**January 22, 2021**  
**Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey**

This is the Sandhill crane ground count survey for January 22th, 2021. Barren River Lake is still above winter pool at 528.2 (~3ft above winter pool). The roost sites in Hardin County are producing good amounts of birds with the largest groups of birds being spotted while feeding. Overall the habitat conditions look good.

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<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Barren River Lake WMA	716 Sandhill Cranes	Lake level (1/19): 528.2 and falling. Some disturbances caused cranes to enter the roost sites later than usual.
Hardin County	112 Sandhill Cranes	Not a lot of birds roosting in the area this week with the largest groups of birds still being spotted while feeding. Overall habitat conditions look good.

**February 9, 2021**  
**Kentucky Sandhill Crane Survey**

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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.