

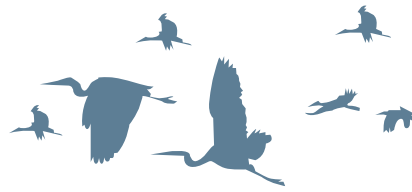
### **Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary Mission:**

To conserve and restore the Platte River ecosystem, focusing on cranes, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.



**IAIN NICOLSON AUDUBON CENTER  
AT ROWE SANCTUARY**  
44450 ELM ISLAND RD  
GIBBON, NE 68840  
308-468-5282  
rowe.audubon.org

**VISITOR CENTER HOURS  
DURING CRANE SEASON**  
FEBRUARY 15-APRIL 15  
8 AM - 5:30 PM EVERY DAY



## **INFORMATION FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS**

The following options have been created to provide photographers with a more rewarding experience. These guided tours allow the use of tripods and continuous mode shooting that are not allowed in our general viewing blinds. The number of photographers is also limited to provide more space for each participant.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY BLINDS**

March 18 - April 8

#### **Photographers Crane Tour**

This tour is designed specifically for photographers. Tripods and continuous mode of shooting are allowed on these tours and group size is limited. Tours last approximately two hours. Must have own transportation to site.

#### **Overnight Photography Blinds**

These 6ft. x 8ft. x 6ft. blinds are placed near major crane roosts on the river making it necessary to stay overnight. Photography opportunities should be excellent for either still or video cameras. There is a maximum capacity of two per blind. Each blind is equipped with a small bucket potty. You are responsible for bringing the proper gear to stay warm.

Reservations can be made by phone starting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

**For cost and additional details please visit our website at [rowe.audubon.org](http://rowe.audubon.org) or call 308-468-5282**

IAIN NICOLSON **Audubon**  
CENTER AT ROWE SANCTUARY

## **GUIDED CRANE VIEWING 2017**



### **TOUR DATES:**

March 4- April 9, 2017

Tour start times: Central Time

**Morning:** 5:00 a.m. March 4 - 11  
6:00 a.m. March 12 - April 9

**Evening:** 5:00 p.m. March 4 - 11  
6:00 p.m. March 12 - April 9

***Tours begin promptly!***

Every March, over 600,000 Sandhill Cranes converge on the Platte River valley in central Nebraska to fuel up before continuing north to their nesting grounds. One of the greatest wildlife spectacles in North America, this gathering of cranes is the largest in the world.

Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary is at the heart of this magnificent crane staging area. Rowe Sanctuary offers guided tours to view the spectacular concentrations of Sandhill Cranes on their evening river roosts. Guests can view the cranes returning to or leaving the river and learn about our ongoing efforts to protect America's Great Migration.

***See inside for details.***



## Make Reservations

**Online:** [reservations.rowesanctuary.org](http://reservations.rowesanctuary.org)

**Phone:** 308-468-5282

Reservations will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. See our website for cost, **prepayment is required.**

Cancellations are refundable up to 7 days prior to your trip with a 5% refund charge.

## How to Get Here

Tours start at the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center. Take Exit 285 exit (Gibbon) off Interstate 80. Go south approximately two miles on Lowell Road to Elm Island Road, turn west (right) and proceed two miles to the visitor center.

## Lodging

Kearney is only 20-25 minutes away and has numerous hotels/motels. Grand Island, Hastings, and Minden are all within a one hour drive. (Check out our sponsors on the website.)

## The Blinds

The viewing blinds are fully enclosed and hold up to 32 people. They provide protection from the elements, but are not heated. Guests must to stand to view, but benches are in the back of each blind if needed. Chemical toilets are located outside each blind as well.

## What to Expect

Tours begin with a short orientation at the Visitor's center and then proceed with a 1/4 - 1/2 mile walk to the blinds. In the mornings tours walk out in the dark to prevent spooking the cranes. Evening tours go out before cranes arrive on the river and stay until it is dark enough to exit without disturbing the birds.

## What to Wear

You will be standing in an unheated blind for about two hours, the following are strongly recommended:

- The warmest coat and clothing you have, including long underwear
- Warm footwear
- Wool or synthetic socks (avoid cotton)
- Very warm gloves or mittens
- Stocking cap or insulated hat
- Dress in layers

Remember, it is always better to have too much clothing than not enough.

## What to Bring

- Binoculars
- Dark clothing please
- Warm drinks, water bottle & snacks

## Photography Policy

Cameras and other recording devices are welcome provided they do not place the cranes at risk or detract from the experience for others.

### Rules/guidelines for photography:

- Rowe Sanctuary reserves the right to ban use of any device determined to be a nuisance.
- No flash allowed.
- Continuous mode or rapid fire photography is not allowed.
- Tripods are not allowed in the viewing blinds. (This includes hybrid mono/tripods)
- Monopods are allowed.
- Cameras and other recording devices will be allowed in the blinds ONLY when there is enough light to prevent disturbance to cranes. Otherwise, all cameras and recording devices must be stored.
- Tablets (i.e. - I pads, etc.) are not allowed.
- Phones must be in Airplane Mode and on silent while on the tour.

## Options for the Physically, Visually or Hearing Impaired

The viewing blinds and the trails are not ADA accessible. Golf carts are available to transport guests who are unable to walk on our trails. Space on the golf carts is limited so please indicate your request for assistance when you make your reservation.

Please call 308-468-5282 with inquiries about options.

## OTHER PROGRAMS:

### Crane Behavior Class (Offered Daily)

This class offer the participants a look into the common behaviors of Sandhill Cranes while on their Migration through Nebraska. Cranes communicate vocally as well as with body language. Learn to recognize some of the most common behaviors and what they mean.

### Special Speakers (Offered Weekly)

Rowe Sanctuary will host speakers throughout the migration season to provide expert information about a variety of topics on the natural world we live in.

### Year Around

Rowe Sanctuary is open year around and provides monthly family programs as well as educational programs for schools and Summer day camps. Audubon owns and manages 2,400 acres on the Platte River. Conservation efforts include maintaining open river channels, improving grassland diversity, restoring and enhancing wetlands and leading efforts on ia basin-wide management plan on the entire Platte River from Colorado and Wyoming to the mouth.

**Volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year.**

**For additional information, please visit our website at [rowe.audubon.org](http://rowe.audubon.org)**