

Information for Photographers

Please be aware that our viewing blinds offer good panoramic views of large flocks of cranes, but may not provide good opportunities for close-ups of the cranes unless you have at least a 400mm lens or larger.

Photography Blinds

We have two options for the serious nature photographer.

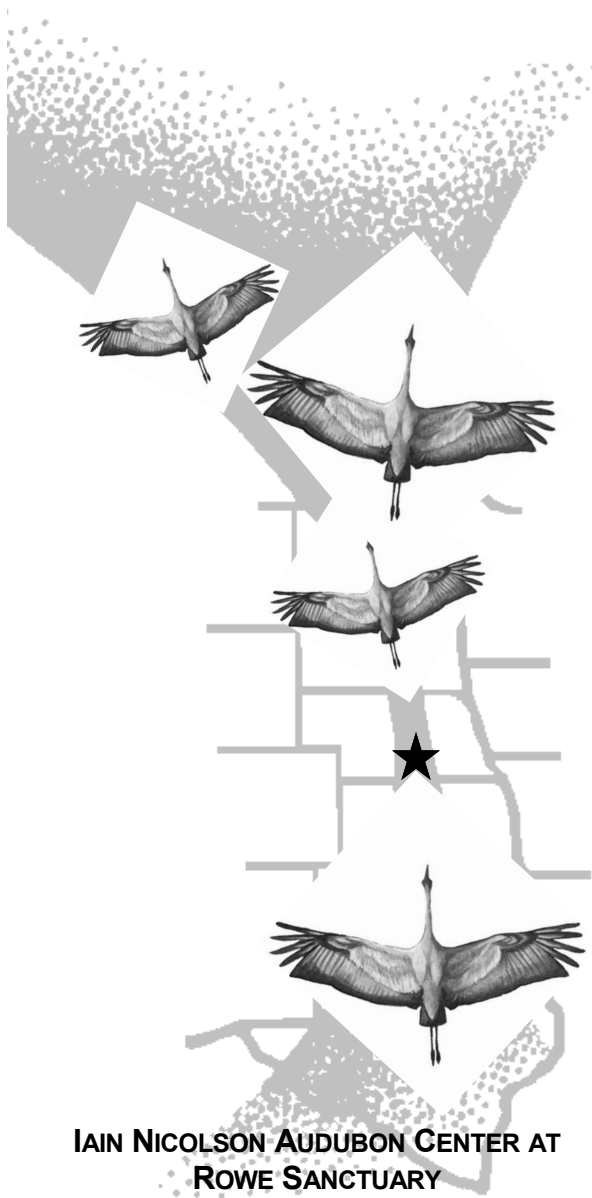
1) Photographers Crane Tour

Offered in the evening only, 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.

2) Overnight Photography Blinds

These 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 small porta-potties, but you are responsible for bringing the proper gear to stay warm overnight.

Reservations can be made by phone starting at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2016. For cost and additional details please visit our website at rowe.audubon.org or call 308-468-5282.



**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**

Sandhill Crane Viewing Rowe Sanctuary 2016



Every March, over 500,000 Sandhill Cranes converge on the Platte River valley in south-central Nebraska to fuel up before continuing north to their nesting grounds. Considered to be one of the great wildlife spectacles in North America, this gathering of cranes is the largest in the world.

Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary owns and manages 2,500 acres in the heart of this magnificent crane staging area. We offer guided tours to view the spectacular concentrations of Sandhill Cranes from viewing blinds on the banks of the Platte River. Come visit us and learn about our ongoing efforts to protect America's Great Migration. See inside for details.


**IAIN NICOLSON Audubon
CENTER AT ROWE SANCTUARY**



What to Expect

A typical tour begins and ends with a 1/4 - 1/2 mile walk. In the mornings we approach under the cover of darkness to prevent spooking the cranes. In the evening we go in before sunset, then view the cranes as they come in until it is dark enough that we can quietly exit without disturbing the cranes. Tours last approximately two hours.

The Blinds

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

Making Reservations

By phone - **308-468-5282**

Online - reservations.rowesanctuary.org

We will begin taking reservations at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2016. See our website for cost, **prepayment is required**. Cancellations are refundable up to seven days prior to your trip, but are subject to a 5% charge on your purchase total.

Lodging

The City of Kearney is only 20-25 minutes away and has numerous hotels/motels. If Kearney is full, Grand Island, Hastings, and Minden are good alternatives.

Tour dates:

March 5 - April 10, 2016

Tour start times:

- Morning: 5:00 a.m. March 5 - 12
6:00 a.m. March 13 - April 10
- Evening: 5:00 p.m. March 5 - 12
6:00 p.m. March 13 - April 10

Tours begin promptly!

Where to Meet

Tours start at the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center (see map below). Directions from Kearney: Take I-80 east to exit 285 (Gibbon exit - look for signs). Go south approximately two miles on Lowell Rd to Elm Island Rd, turn west (right) and proceed two miles to the Center.

What to Bring

- Binoculars
- Camera (NO FLASH) &/or Video camera*
- Dark clothing as this helps us to blend in when walking to and from the blinds
- Warm drinks & snacks

*** Please see our website for our policies regarding cameras. Tripods are not allowed.**

What to Wear

March and April in Nebraska can be very cold, so please watch the weather and dress appropriately. **Since 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 than not enough.

Options for the Physically, Visually or Hearing Impaired

We are willing to do whatever it takes to assist those with special needs to gain access to our blinds. Please give us a call at 308-468-5282 with inquiries.

For additional information, please visit our website at rowe.audubon.org.

