



Sandhill Crane

- Sandhill cranes are one of only two crane species that breed in North America. The other is the whooping crane. Sandhill cranes are the most abundant of the world's cranes.
- The wingspan of a sandhill crane is a little more than six feet. They eat everything from plant tubers to grains, small animals, insects and worms.
- They have wingspans of about six feet and eat everything from plant tubers to grains, small animals, insects and worms.
- Sandhill cranes commonly roost standing within shallow open water.
- Sandhill cranes have been known to fly 25 to 35 miles an hour. They typically fly 200 to 300 miles in a day when migrating, but can reach 500 miles with a good tail wind. They fly with their necks stretched out, not pulled back like herons. There are also non-migratory sandhill cranes.
- Cranes dance to attract mates, but the dancing is also used to put off aggressors and strengthen the bond between a pair of cranes. Whole groups may sometimes dance together. Mated pairs of cranes engage in unison calling, an extended series of coordinated calls. Cranes may live up to 25 years.
- Crane nests are typically located on a low mound of vegetation in a wetland. Both parents feed the chicks.
- Sandhill cranes are mostly gray with a red crown on their head. Young birds, called colts, are rust colored and gray without a red crown.
- In summer, look for sandhill cranes in small bogs, marshes and prairies across northern North America. In winter, there are large flocks at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico.
- Mississippi sandhill cranes are a critically endangered subspecies found only on or near Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi.



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