VIEWING VENUES

Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary
44450 Elm Island Road, Gibbon, NE, 68840
308-468-5282  rowe.audubon.org
(Open Daily 8am - 5:30pm; February 15 - April 15)

Morning & Evening Guided Crane Viewing Tours available March 4 - April 9
Tours last approximately two hours. Overnight photo blinds are also available. These blinds hold a maximum of two people.
Call for fees & reservations.

Fort Kearny State Historical Park & Visitors Center
1020 V Road (HWY 50 A), Kearney, NE 68847
308-865-5305  outdoornebraska.org
(Open Daily 9am - 5pm; March 3 - April 9)

Representatives from the Game & Parks Commission are on hand to answer questions about the migration and can direct you to the best viewing areas. Maps are available for self-guided tours of the Platte River. Stop at the Historical Park before beginning your tour, to view an 18 minute video informing visitors about the migration. A valid State Park permit is required per vehicle and can be purchased in the Fort Kearny visitors center.

Fort Kearny Recreation Area
Hike-Bike Trail Bridge
1020 V Road (HWY 50 A), Kearney, NE 68847
308-865-5305  outdoornebraska.org

Sunrise/Sunset Viewing
View the cranes a half hour before sunrise or sunset from an old railroad bridge that spans the Platte River. The bridge is part of a 13.2 mile trail and a 300 yard walk from the parking area. The recreation area also offers seven small lakes, camping and other wildlife viewing opportunities. A valid State Park permit is required per vehicle and can be purchased in the Fort Kearny visitors center.

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VIEWING TIPS
For your safety & safety of the birds.

- Do not stop on major paved roadways.
- It is illegal and a disturbance to other birdwatchers to harass cranes and other birds in any manner.
- Most land on the Platte River is private property. DO NOT TRESPASS!
- Do not attempt to approach the birds. Use your vehicle as a “blind” and stay in your car. (Window mounts for scopes and cameras work well.)
- 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.

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Kearney Visitors Bureau Hours
March 4th - April 1st
Staff can direct you to crane sites as well as other area attractions.

WEEKDAYS ...... 8AM - 5PM
SATURDAY ...... 9AM - 5PM
SUNDAY .......... 1PM - 4PM

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF:
NEBRASKAland Magazine/NE Game & Parks Commission
Don Brockmeier

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KEARNEY, NEBRASKA
SANDHILL CRANE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

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2018 CRANE WATCH
For six 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 and Siberia. They stop along the Platte to rest and 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 and shorebirds also migrate through Central Nebraska during this time. It is an enchanting sight and one that can only be truly appreciated in person.