

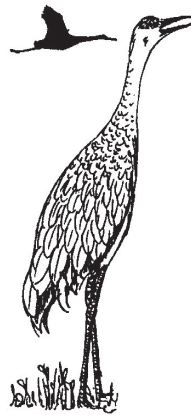
The Great 2010 Sandhill Crane Migration Tour

Kearney, Nebraska

March 20 - 22, 2010

Registration Deadline: February 5, 2010

Experience the spectacle of the world's largest sandhill crane migration, tour Durham Museum, the Museum of Nebraska History and other sites in Nebraska.



Sponsored by the Buchanan and Linn County Conservation Boards.

The Outdoor Outings Program

The Linn and Buchanan County Conservation Boards sponsor outdoor outings as a means of promoting unique and important natural places in the Midwest.

The Outdoor Outings program has been taking Eastern Iowans to unique natural areas in the Midwest since 1993, when we took our first busload of people to witness the sandhill crane migration. Other outings have included trips to the International Wolf Center in Ely, MN; Custer State Park in S.D.; and the Iowa Great Lakes and Loess Hills of Western Iowa.

This year's trip to the Platte River near Kearney, Nebraska features an experience of a lifetime – the great migration stop of a half-million sandhill cranes. Occasionally, whooping cranes, one of the rarest bird species in North America, are spotted among the sandhill cranes. We will witness the sights and sounds of the great gathering of birds from the vantage point of specially placed blinds at the Rowe Sanctuary.

The Ian Nicolson Audubon Center at The Rowe Sanctuary offers guided trips to view the world's largest concentration of sandhill cranes from observation blinds on the banks of the Platte River in southcentral Nebraska. The trips are conducted every year during March and early April, when over 500,000 sandhill cranes along with hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese converge on the Platte. Rowe Sanctuary is located right in the heart of this magnificent sandhill crane staging area where the birds can be viewed in huge gatherings on their nighttime roosts. Trips to the observation blinds are timed to provide the best opportunities to see this spectacle. Group sizes are limited to maintain the quality and uniqueness of the experience

For more information about the upcoming trip to witness the sandhill crane migration, or other Outdoor Outings trips, please contact the Linn County Conservation Department at 319-892-6485 or the Buchanan County Conservation Department at 319-636-2617. Register today. *The registration deadline for this year's trip is February 25, 2010.*

Sandhill Crane Migration Bus Tour

Kearney, Nebraska

March 20 - 22, 2010

Registration Deadline: February 5, 2010

Tentative Schedule

Saturday, March 20

- 7:00 a.m. Leave Independence from the OLD Fareway parking lot
- 8:00 a.m. Leave Cedar Rapids from the Cedar Valley Nature Trail parking area on Boyson Road
- Early Lunch: Des Moines, IA
- 2:00 p.m. Durham Museum
- 5:00 p.m. Supper at Casio's Steak House
- 6:30 p.m. Arrive at Best Wester Kelly Inn

Sunday, March 21

- Breakfast Continental Breakfast at Kelly Inn
- 9:45 a.m. Load Bus for Lincoln
- 11:00 a.m. Eat lunch in Lincoln
- 12:30am Tour Museum of Nebraska Natural History
- 4:00 p.m. Arrive at Kearney Country Inn & Suites
Early Supper on your own
- 6:00 p.m. Load bus to Rowe Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Arrive Rowe Audubon Sancturay and go to blinds

Monday, March 22

- 7:00 a.m. Hot continental breakfast at motel
- 8:00 a.m. Load bus, tour area
- Lunch Omaha area
- 2:00 p.m. Des Moines Botanical Center
- 5:30 p.m. Estimated time of arrival in Hiawatha
- 6:30 p.m. Estimated time of arrival in Independence



At the Rowe Audubon Sanctuary...

According to some historical accounts, the Platte River was “a mile wide and a inch deep.” Wetlands and wet meadows bordered the Platte to capture and hold water that escaped past its banks, and tallgrass prairie bordered the wetlands and wet meadows. Each spring, snow melt from the Rockies would provide scouring flows that removed new vegetation that grew on sandbars during the previous growing season.

Today, reduced flows in the river make it necessary for mechanical clearing to maintain wide channels and open sandbars that cranes prefer. Prairie and wet meadows in the Platte River Valley have decreased over time, but still play an important role during the sandhill crane’s stay here in March and early April. The cranes utilize these areas for feeding, loafing, and as secondary roost sites.

The **Ian Nicolson Audubon Center**, set along the beautiful Platte River, is the second largest straw bale constructed building in the United States. This education/visitor center not only provides office space for the staff, but also has a classroom/conference room, educational displays, a viewing area of the river and much more.

Did you know...

- Sandhill cranes dance?
- Sandhill cranes usually hatch two chicks that typically fight until only one remains?
- Sandhill cranes may live more than 20 years?
- Approximately 500,000 sandhill cranes will use the Platte River as a migratory stop?
- Eighty percent of the world’s lesser sandhill cranes use the Platte River each spring?
- Sandhill cranes have already migrated 600 miles before reaching the Platte River?

At the Durham Museum...

beautiful architecture blends with memories of a time gone by at The Durham Museum. Making its home in one of Omaha’s most unique treasures, Union Station, The Durham Museum offers a fascinating look at the history of the region

Step back in time and visit Union Station’s original Soda Fountain! Enjoy an old fashioned phosphate made with your favorite flavoring and soda water straight from the fountain dispenser. Add some hand-scooped ice cream and it becomes a luscious ice cream soda. Delicious malts, milk shakes and sundaes are also favorites.

The University of Nebraska State Museum of Natural History...

is the region’s premier natural history museum features the world’s finest collection of fossil elephants, Nebraska fossils, American Indian and African exhibits, dinosaurs, and wildlife dioramas. Explore the Evolution exhibit, hands-on discovery center, gift shop, planetarium and much more.

The Des Moines Botanical and Environmental Center...

is one of the most popular cultural attractions in Iowa, providing educational, recreational, and community resources to thousands. Its goal is to provide botanical displays and educational services for its visitors. It is located on 14 acres along the east bank of the Des Moines River, close to downtown.

**2010 Sandhill Crane Migration
Registration Form
(Deadline: February 5, 2010)**

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ (h) _____ (w)

E-mail: _____

Please Check One

- Single Occupancy Fee/Person - \$415**
- Double Occupancy Fee/Person – \$330**
- Triple Occupancy Fee/Person – \$310**
- Quad Occupancy Fee/Person – \$290**

****Please send a \$100/person deposit with your registration or the full fee. Final fees will be due by February 5.**

I prefer to board the bus in (circle choice)

Independence Cedar Rapids

Your trip payment includes: Deluxe motor-coach transportation, experienced tour guides, crane observation blind fees, admission to museums, three meals, two nights’ motel lodging and driver tip.

Make checks payable to Butler’s Travel Service.

Please return this form and deposit and/or full payment to:

Outdoor Outing
c/o Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center
10260 Morris Hills Road
Toddville, IA 52341

For more information contact Linn CCD at 319-892-6485 or Buchanan CCB at 319-636-2617.