

TIPS FOR THE 2020 NABS/BAN CONFERENCE

In Nebraska temperatures can vary from mild to below freezing in March, so dress appropriately. If you are going to the blinds, you will be standing in an unheated blind for two to three hours. Early in the morning and/or late in the evening will be colder than you might expect. It is better to wear too much than not enough. Your head, hands and feet will get extremely cold if you don't cover them properly.

Suggestions of What to Wear on the Birding Field Trip and to the Sandhill Crane Blinds:

- Dress in layers
- Winter coat and cold weather clothing, including long underwear
- Boots/shoes along with wool or synthetic socks (avoid cotton)
- Mittens or gloves, stocking cap or insulated hat
- Dark clothing helps to blend in with the surroundings when walking to and from the blinds

Suggestions of What to Bring to the Sandhill Crane Blinds:

- Binoculars
- Camera (**NO FLASHES**) and/or video camera
- Drinks and snacks if desired (chemical toilets are outside each blind)
- Flashlights are **NOT** allowed (Audubon guides will lead groups to and from blinds)

Rowe Sanctuary Photography Policy

Cameras and other recording devices are welcome in the viewing blinds, provided they do not place the cranes at risk or detract from the experience for others. Below are rules/guidelines for photography and recording in the general viewing blinds:

- Rowe Sanctuary reserves the right to ban use of any device determined to be a nuisance.
- The use of cameras and any other recording devices in the viewing blinds is allowed **ONLY** when there is enough light to prevent disturbance to cranes. Illumination from LCD screens in darkness will spook cranes roosting on the river and diminish the viewing experience for all visitors.
- Tablets (IPads, etc.) are not allowed.
- No flash allowed.
- Continuous mode or rapid fire photography is not permitted.
- Tripods are not to be brought in the viewing blinds because of space limitations and tripping hazards. Monopods are allowed (tripods **CANNOT** be used as a monopod).
- Nothing can extend outside the blind windows (camera lenses, binoculars, hands, faces, etc.)
- Phones must be set on Airplane Mode and silent while on the tour.

TIPS FOR THE 2020 NABS/BAN CONFERENCE

If you plan to drive around the area to view the Sandhill Cranes feeding in the fields, please follow these rules.

- Do not stop on major (paved) roadways, driveways or any other private road or gated entry.
- Do not stop abruptly if you see a flock of birds from the road. The person traveling behind you may not be a crane watcher.
- When viewing birds from a county roadside (gravel road), please pull as far off the road as possible and use your emergency flashers. Most crane watchers tend to drive these roads slowly, so be mindful of farm machinery and local traffic by pulling over when necessary.
- Do not attempt to approach the birds. Use your vehicle as a “blind” and stay in your car or right next to it when setting up tripods, spotting scopes or cameras.
- Do not attempt to approach birds on their roosts. One alarm call from a bird can send the entire flock into a panicked flight, using up precious energy reserves and exposing the birds to hazards such as power lines - not to mention ruining the viewing experience of other visitors.
- It is illegal – and a disturbance to other birdwatchers – to harass cranes and other birds in any manner.
- Most land in the Platte River valley is private property. **DO NOT TRESPASS!**
- Binoculars and spotting scopes are a real benefit for better viewing of all species of birds.