

Sandhill Crane



Sandhill Cranes in Yellowstone National Park

Sandhill cranes are tall, gray and brown birds with a red forehead and a white patch on their cheeks. They have long legs similar to an ostrich and a long, pointy beak. The males weigh 10 pounds, females about nine pounds. They are about two-and-a-half to four feet in height. They give loud trumpeting calls that can be heard a long way off, sometimes calling in unison. They can soar and stay in the air for hours. They live in flocks that often have over 10,000 birds. They fly south for the winter, some to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico, where there is a festival for them held in November.

In Yellowstone, sandhill cranes live in the wetlands. They are being observed to help track climate changes.

What did you learn about the sandhill cranes of Yellowstone?

1. What kind of sounds do sandhill cranes make?

They make a loud trumpeting sound, sometimes in unison.

2. How many sandhill cranes are often in a flock?

Some sandhill crane flocks have over 10,000 birds.

3. Where do sandhill cranes go in the winter?

Sandhill cranes migrate south for the winter, some to New Mexico.

