

HOW TO IDENTIFY A SANDHILL CRANE

Florida Sandhill Crane

Antigone canadensis pratensis



IF SEEN ON WORK SITE

Stop work if a sandhill crane is observed on the worksite. If an active nest is found, stop work within 400-feet of the nest. If hatchlings are seen on site, a nest is likely nearby. Stop work and immediately contact Construction Project Administrator (CPA). If a nest is found, a nest buffer of 1,500 feet will be identified.



Adult



Immature adult



Adults with nest



Adult with hatchling

INDIVIDUAL FEATURES

Adults are gray with a patch of red skin on their foreheads. They have white cheeks and long, dark pointed bills. They are tall, long-neck and long-legged with a clump of feathers that droops over their rump. In flight, their dark legs trail behind, and their long necks keep straight (unlike the common Great Blue Heron that tucks in its neck in flight).

Immature birds have reddish-brown upperparts and gray underparts. **Hatchlings** are light brown and are accompanied by an adult.

HABITAT/BEHAVIOR

They are attracted to open areas such as wet prairies, freshwater ponds, marshes, shallow, flooded areas, as well as upland habitats (particularly for young cranes before they are able to fly). They are also present in urban areas, often seen foraging adjacent to roadways.

They nest in raised, dry, mounded structures surrounded by water, typically in shallow, freshwater marshes.

Nests are located in low mounds on the ground made up of twigs and plants in water from 5 inches to 13 inches deep.

NESTING SEASON

Occurs year-round, typically December through August; however primarily February through April