



Nebraska's Best Kept Crane Secret



Prairie Chicken Viewing

In the spring the hearts of the Nebraska Greater Prairie Chickens turn toward love. To successfully attract a female mate, the male Prairie Chickens must impress them with their dancing prowess. Males will gather in large numbers on dancing grounds known as leks. They will cackle, jump, and stomp their feet, sometimes scuffling with a rival.

The ladies will observe the shenanigans circumspectly, examining the prospects with a critical eye. However, if they see something they like, they may come forward for a brief, flurried assignation.

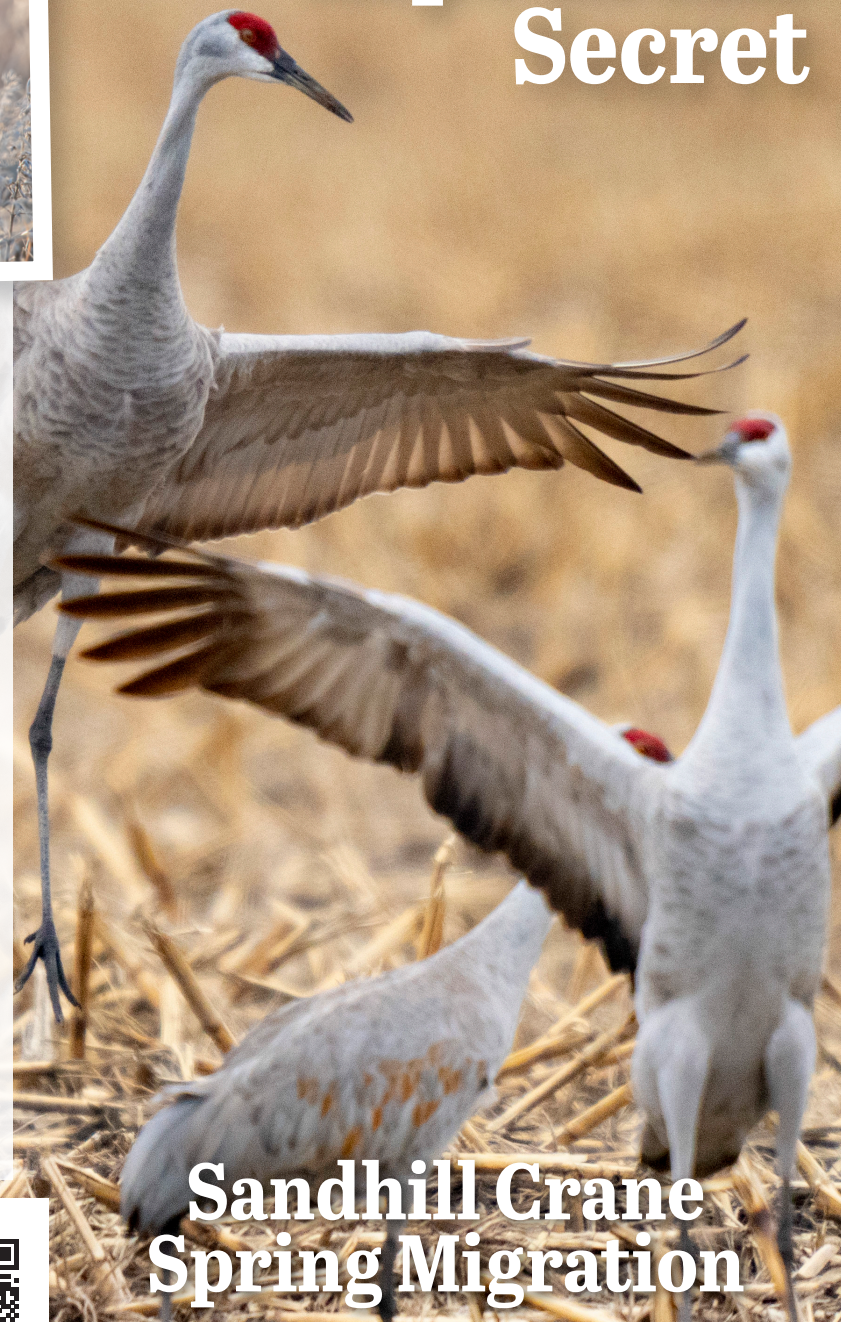
The dance of the Nebraska Greater Prairie Chicken can only be viewed at sunrise and is truly magical to watch.

Viewing options available:

- Public Viewing Blinds – contact N-CORPE
- Guided Viewing Blind Tours – contact Dusty Trails

Dusty Trails Outfitters: 308-530-0048 or visit DustyTrails.biz

*See map for details on public viewing options



Sandhill Crane Spring Migration

Each year over three hundred thousand Sandhill Cranes will spend six weeks in the Platte River Valley near North Platte on their way to their nesting grounds in Siberia. The Cranes will feed, loaf, and dance in the crop fields and meadows. The peak season of the Sandhill Crane migration in North Platte is typically the beginning of March through the beginning of April.

At sunrise and sunset the North Platte River is the perfect place to view the incredible concentrations of Sandhill Cranes as they come to strategically roost for the night, or as they awake and take off for another day of feeding and Dancing.

The spectacular Dance of the Sandhill Crane is something that can't be experienced in a viewing blind on the river. One of the best ways to watch the Dance of the Sandhill Crane is to use your car as a mobile viewing blind along the rural roads. The highlighted route on the map is all paved, but don't be shy about taking gravel roads to get an even better view. The best observing times are mid-morning to late afternoon.

Viewing options available:

- Public Viewing Blinds – Sunrise/Sunset
- Guided Blind Tours – Sunrise/Sunset
Contact Dusty Trails
- Self-Guided Driving Tour – Daytime
- Guided Driving Tour – Daytime
Contact Dusty Trails

Dusty Trails Outfitters: 308-530-0048 or visit DustyTrails.biz

*See map for details on public viewing options

Public Blind Etiquette

- Approaching cranes or waterfowl will only cause them to fly away.
- Avoid loud noises or flashing lights around cranes, as it is illegal and disrupts the birds.
- Do not stop on highways, driveways, or any other private farm road to watch wildlife.
- Respect private property. Do not trespass! Most land in the Platte River valley is private.
- Use your vehicle as a Viewing Blind to avoid disturbing the birds.



Sandhill Crane Spring Migration

Experience **SPRING BIRDING** in North Platte
VisitNorthPlatte.com

Visit North Platte

101 Halligan Drive
North Platte, NE 69101

308-532-4729

info@VisitNorthPlatte.com



Experience Sandhill Cranes & Prairie Chickens in the North Platte Area

Sandhill Crane River Viewing

SUNRISE & SUNSET

- North River Wildlife Area
- North Platte City Blind
- Guided River Blind Tours with Dusty Trails \$

Sandhill Crane Viewing

DAYTIME

- Buffalo Bill State Recreation Area
- Self-guided Driving Tour
- Guided Bus Tours with Dusty Trails \$
- Golden Spike Tower \$

Prairie Chicken Viewing

SUNRISE

- N-CORPE Blind (call ahead to make reservations)
- Guided Blind Tours with Dusty Trails \$



Map Key

- Public Sandhill Crane Blind
- Public Prairie Chicken Blind
- Driving Route
- Paved Road
- Highway/Interstate
- Gravel Road



Driving Route

- Walking distance to blind: 900 yards.
- Nebraska Game & Parks sticker is required.



Dusty Trails

All tours will leave from the Visit North Platte Visitors Center located at 101 Halligan Dr., North Platte, NE

For all guided birding tours, Sandhill Cranes and Prairie Chickens alike, contact Dusty Trails: (308) 530-0048

To purchase tickets go to:
DustyTrails.biz



Nebraska Game and Parks

- Buffalo Bill State Recreation Area
41°10'14.4" N 100°47'28.5" W
- North River Wildlife Area
N 41°12'21.6" W 100°59'56.0"

OutdoorNebraska.gov

Nebraska Game & Parks permit is required.
First come, first served.



Golden Spike Tower

Sandhill Crane viewing
1249 N. Homestead Rd.
(308) 532-9920

GoldenSpikeTower.com

Hours: 9am-5pm
Admission charged.



North Platte City Blind

Sandhill Crane viewing
301 W. 18th St.
(308) 532-4729

VisitNorthPlatte.com

Open 24 hours
Free parking



N-CORPE

24871 S. Lone Star Rd.
North Platte, NE 69101
N 40°54'32.00" W 100°52'04.09"

Prairie Chicken viewing.
Approximately a 30 minute drive South from North Platte.

Reservations required, contact:
(308) 534-6752
kshepherd@urnrd.org



Directions to N-CORPE

- Traveling South on Hwy 83 from the I-80 interchange (North Platte, NE)
- Continue South on Hwy 83, 13.6 miles
- Turn right (West) onto W. Lone Star Rd.
- Travel 5.9 miles West
- Turn left (South) on W. Lone Star Rd.
- Travel .5 miles to headquarters

