

Living with Sandhill Cranes



Sandhill cranes, which are native to Florida, are one of our most beautiful and awe-inspiring birds. However, when cranes lose their fear of people, they can begin acting aggressively and can even become a public safety concern. You can help avoid conflicts by following these tips.

Never feed sandhill cranes

It is illegal to do so and is harmful to them and to people (Florida Administrative Code 68A-4.001(6)). Feeding sandhill cranes – intentionally or unintentionally – causes them to lose their natural fear of people and can lead them to behave aggressively.

Keep sandhill cranes wild!

If you encounter adult sandhill cranes that approach people or pets and do not demonstrate fear of humans, and if flightless young are not present, the FWC recommends consistently hazing them, or scaring them away, by:

- Chasing them without making physical contact
- Waving your arms or clapping your hands and yelling at them
- Making loud noises using an airhorn or banging pots and pans
- Spraying them with a strong water jet from a hose
- Putting up a motion-activated water sprinkler

If you encounter sandhill cranes that display the described behavior **and flightless young are present**, you may haze **ONLY** the adults. In this situation, the FWC recommends:

- Spraying the adult sandhill cranes with a strong jet from a hose
- Putting up a motion-activated water sprinkler

Do not haze sandhill cranes or modify habitat within 400 feet of an active sandhill crane nest.

For more information on how to prevent property damage or other conflicts with sandhill cranes please contact your FWC Regional Office or visit **MyFWC.com**.

If you observe illegal feeding of sandhill cranes, please report the violation to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline: **1-888-404-3922**.

