

Rowe Sanctuary Photo Blind Information 2010 Crane Season

Greetings:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding a Photo Blind at Rowe Sanctuary. Our photo blinds are placed in areas of the sanctuary that offer outstanding views of the sandhill cranes on their river roosts. We realize that the presence of wildlife is only part of the picture, but we are unable to control the weather and availability of light.

It is important you understand that this is a wildlife sanctuary and our first concern is for the cranes and other wildlife. We will not compromise their well being for anyone. If the rules for the blinds are not followed, the cranes will be flushed from their roosts in the river at the wrong time, an action which will likely result in some crane deaths. If this happens, we will shut down the whole program and refund the people that are signed up to use the photo blinds in the future. As you can see, this whole program depends on each individual person acting in a responsible manner. We are counting on your experience and professionalism to make this work.

How this works:

When you call and reserve a photo blind for an evening, you are agreeing to enter the blind at approximately 5 p.m. and not leave it until a staff person comes to pick you up after 9 a.m. the next morning. You will experience the cranes flying in at dusk and leaving the river in the morning. Each blind is \$150 plus tax and has a capacity of two people. **(Cancellation policy: We must be notified two weeks prior to your visit to receive a full refund.)**

The blinds are constructed of wood and measure approximately 6 ft. x 8 ft. x 4 ft. They do not have floors. Each season, we locate each blind to optimize light based on input from professional wildlife photographers and for ease of access to the crane roosting areas. Due to management practices and river conditions, these locations may vary from year to year.

In Nebraska, March and April weather is highly variable and can be quite cold, especially at night. Because of fire danger, we do not allow any type of gas or open flame heaters in the blind. If you are not experienced at cold weather camping or do not have adequate gear you should consider canceling your reservation and sign up for one of our morning or evening viewing trips. This opportunity is not for everyone! Please know your limitations.

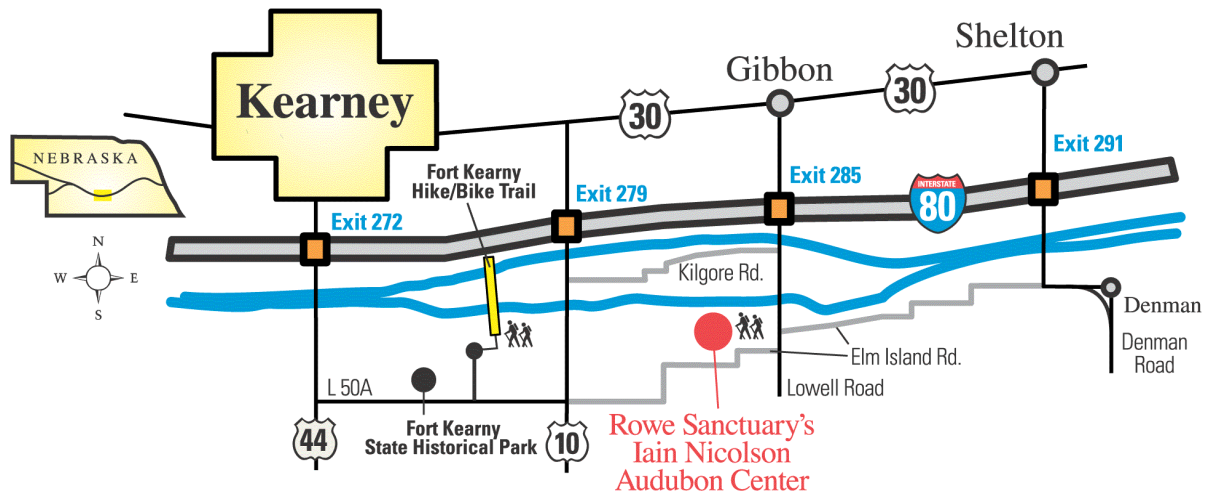
The Rules are as follows:

- Arrive at Rowe Sanctuary office by 4:45 p.m. (see map on reverse)
- Have all gear ready to load – we will transport you and your gear to the blind. Your car will be secure in our parking lot.
- **You may not leave the blind until a Rowe Staff person arrives to get you. The only exception is if you have a health emergency.**
- Porta-potties and “pee” bottles will be provided at each blind.
- Small red lights are provided in each blind, all other light sources are prohibited (flash attachments, flashlights, lanterns)
- Camouflage or dark clothing is required.
- No heaters or stoves of any type.
- No alcoholic beverages or smoking allowed.

Suggested equipment list:

- -10 degree sleeping bag, or two 30 degree bags, pillows
- insulated ground pads
- warm headgear
- 2 or 3 pairs of socks
- warmest boots
- warmest gloves
- long underwear
- extra layers of clothing
- thermos (hot beverage)
- Food (sandwiches, candy, nuts, etc.)
- Water

If you have any questions, please call the sanctuary and ask for Bill or Kent.



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