



Sandhill Crane

Sandhill Crane *(Grus canadensis)*

Instant ID

- Tall gray bird with a long slender neck
- Red patch extends from upper bill, under the eyes and to the middle of the head
- White cheeks
- Wingspan can be over six feet
- Flies with neck extended and legs trailing

Native Niches

- Frequents open wooded areas, prairies and marshes
- Florida subspecies found year-round throughout the peninsula, excluding the extreme south
- Migratory subspecies overwinter in eastern and peninsular portions of the state



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Favorite Foods

- Eats a wide variety of grains, berries, seeds, plants, insects, crustaceans, mollusks and small vertebrates

Critter Characteristics

- Builds nests on floating mats of vegetation
- Chicks can walk and follow parents soon after hatching
- Florida subspecies is smaller than the migratory subspecies
- Pairs perform synchronized courtship dances

Population Protection

- Over hunting and habitat loss caused the near extinction of the whooping crane (North America's other crane species)
- Preserving habitat is vital to the continued survival of cranes in Florida

