



Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

## OHIO CRANE COUNT 2024 – FINAL REPORT

February 2025

Preliminary results indicate 412 sandhill cranes were counted during the Ohio Crane Count on Saturday April 13, 2024. The number of cranes increased by 15% over 2023, and cranes were detected in 26 of the 32 counties surveyed. The increase is likely due to increased survey effort – the number of counties surveyed climbed from 29 to 32- as well as continued growth in the crane population. Counties were selected to be surveyed based on previous year crane observations and the presence of suitable crane habitat within the sandhill crane breeding range. The top five counties with the most sandhill cranes counted were Wayne - 106, Lucas - 56, Geauga - 48, Holmes - 28, and Richland - 27.

After being extirpated from Ohio for over 50 years, sandhill cranes began breeding again in 1987 in Wayne County. Their numbers have continued to increase but they are still listed as state threatened in Ohio.

The count was coordinated by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, International Crane Foundation, and Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative. The next Ohio Crane Count will be held Saturday April 12, 2025 from 630-830 AM. For more information on participating in future Crane Counts see <https://obcnet.org/get-involved/ohio-crane-count/> and <https://savingcranes.org/education/annual-midwest-crane-count/>. See Figure 1 and Table 1 below for the full results from 2024.

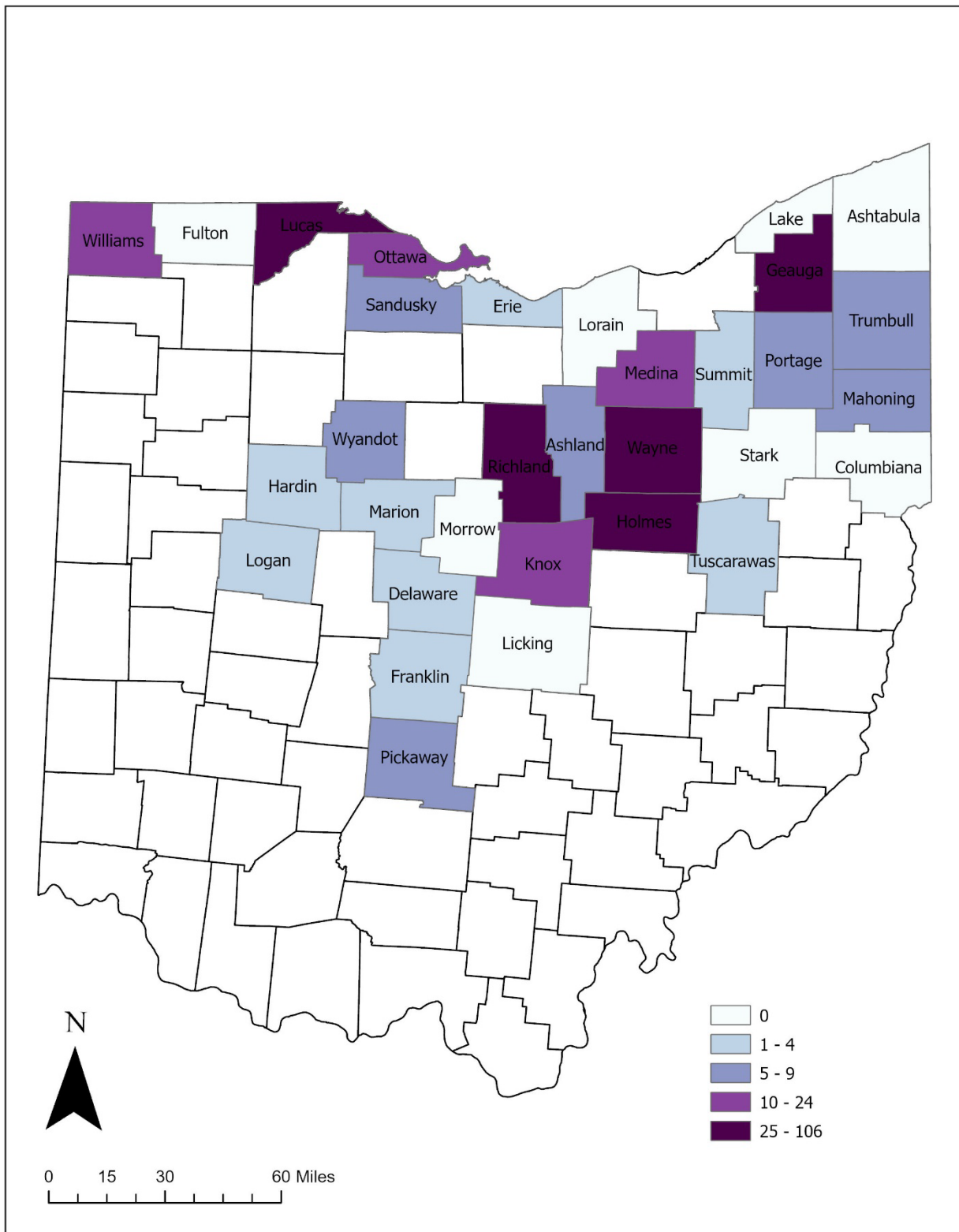


Figure 1. The number of sandhill cranes observed by counties surveyed (labeled) during the 2024 Ohio Crane Count.

County	# Sites Surveyed	# of Sites w Cranes	# of Cranes	# of Counters
Ashland	13	5	7	4
Ashtabula	15	1	1	3
Columbiana	35	0	0	8
Delaware	33	2	3	5
Erie	12	2	4	2
Franklin	63	3	5	18
Fulton	15	0	0	3
Geauga	22	10	48	15
Hardin	19	2	5	3
Holmes	11	9	28	4
Knox	23	6	17	7
Lake	19	0	0	8
Licking	9	0	0	5
Logan	11	2	2	4
Lorain	16	1	1	2
Lucas	66	18	56	18
Mahoning	36	3	6	12
Marion	2	2	3	2
Medina	51	19	14	14
Morrow	3	0	0	3
Ottawa	20	5	17	6
Pickaway	26	2	6	10
Portage	40	7	10	12
Richland	14	9	27	6
Sandusky	30	2	9	11
Stark	8	0	0	2
Summit	46	4	5	10
Trumbull	7	4	10	2
Tuscarawas	12	2	3	3
Wayne	42	18	106	10
Williams	12	7	13	2
Wyandot	15	4	6	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>216</b>

Table 1. Counties surveyed, the number of sites surveyed, the number of sandhill cranes observed, and the number of counters during the 2024 Ohio Crane Count.