

FEBRUARY

DISCOVER. CONNECT. TAKE ACTION.

Discover the natural world with
these fun at-home activities!



CRANES AT BLANK PARK ZOO

East African Grey Crowned Crane

- Native to Eastern and Southern Africa
- Two breeding pairs at Blank Park Zoo

Sarus Crane

- Found in parts of the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia and Australia
- Tallest flying bird in the world
- One breeding pair at Blank Park Zoo

Stanley Crane

- National bird of South Africa
- One breeding pair at Blank Park Zoo

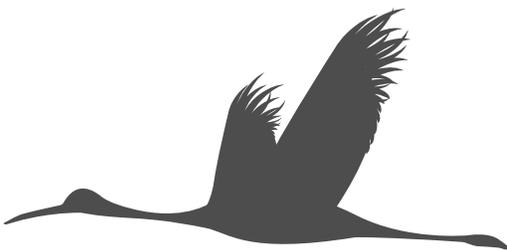
Cranes are tall birds with long legs, necks and usually long bills. They are generally brown, gray, or white in color.

They form life long bonds with their mates and display spectacular mating dances. When males and females call in unison, both point their bills to the sky. The two birds call back and forth for about 10 seconds. Scientists believe these calls reinforce the pair's bond and also serves to defend their territory.



Cranes in Flight

Cranes are similar in appearance to herons and egrets, but unlike those species, they fly with their neck stretched straight out instead of tucked in. Don't get fooled by a goose. Look for a crane's long legs.



Crane
Long neck and long legs



Heron
Curved neck and long legs



Goose
Long neck and short legs

CRANE CONSERVATION

What is the problem?

Cranes are facing threats due to habitat loss and human encroachment.

What is being done to help?

International Crane Foundation

Established in Baraboo, WI in 1971, work worldwide to conserve cranes and the ecosystems, watersheds, and flyways on which they depend. The foundation provides knowledge, leadership, and inspiration to engage people in resolving threats to cranes and their diverse landscapes.

Blank Park Zoo works in partnership with the International Crane Foundation to help restore and increase habitat for all animals, including cranes. Locally we support the work of Polk County Conservation in their habitat restoration work that directly supports sandhill cranes.

Did you know?!

Sandhill cranes are native to Iowa. Thanks in part to conservation efforts their numbers are steadily increasing across the state.



Discover. Connect. Take Action.

What can you do to help?

Plant.Grow.Fly. (PGF)

PGF is a conservation initiative to help protect native pollinators! We believe that no effort is too small and that each and every one of us can do our part to help pollinators thrive just by planting pollinator friendly plants! Cranes and other native wildlife are positively impacted by the creation of pollination habitat.

Together with your family:

- Plant pollinator friendly plants in a pot or a garden.
- Register your garden with Plant.Grow.Fly.
- Make observations and celebrate the diversity in your backyard. What plants are growing and who is visiting?
- Look but don't touch garden visitors.
- In the fall and winter, leave leaf and plant debris for insects and bird habitat.
- Spread the word!



Plant. Grow. Fly.
BLANK PARK ZOO



Backyard Bird Count

What birds are in your backyard? Have you ever stopped to watch? Pick an afternoon and go birding! Watch out your window for 15 minutes and record the birds that you see. How many days does it take you to get a bingo?

Date

Bird Species & Number

Did you know?

An ornithologist is a person who studies birds. According to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, there are 433 species of birds that have been documented in Iowa.

Birding Bingo

Watch out your window for these common backyard birds. How many days does it take for you to get a bingo?



American Robin



House Sparrow



European Starling



Northern Cardinal



House Finch



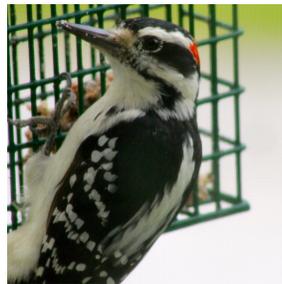
Blue Jay



Dark-eyed Junco



Mourning Dove



Hairy Woodpecker



Black-capped Chickadee



White-breasted Nuthatch



Tree Swallow

FREE
SPACE



House Wren



Brown-headed Cowbird



Red-winged Blackbird



Common Grackle



Eastern Phoebe



Gray Catbird



Red-tailed Hawk



Sharp-shinned Hawk



Bald Eagle



Mallard



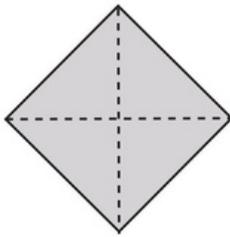
Canada Goose



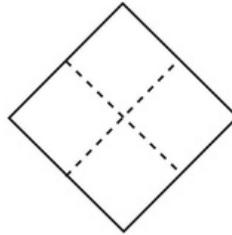
American Coot

MAKE AN ORIGAMI CRANE

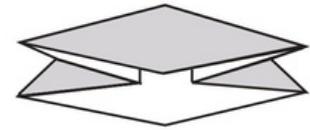
According to Japanese legend, if you fold 1,000 origami cranes you will be granted one wish.



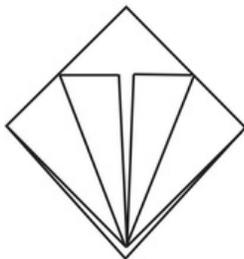
1. Using a square piece of paper, fold the paper in half to form a triangle. If using paper colored on one side only, begin with the colored side facing up. Unfold the paper and repeat f to make folds seen in the image above.



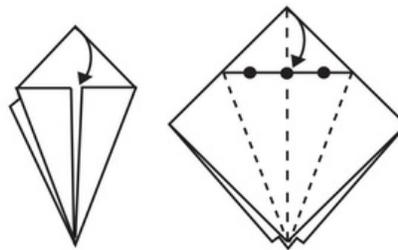
2. Flip the paper so the colored side is facing down and fold the paper in half forming a rectangle. Unfold the paper and repeat to make folds seen in the image above.



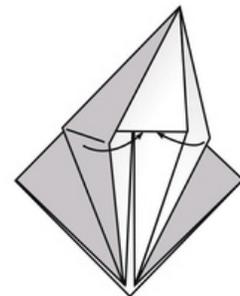
3. Now fold along all four creases at once to form a square with the open end facing you.



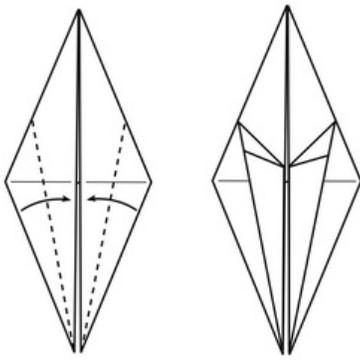
4. Fold two edges in, to form a kite-shape on top. Repeat on other side.



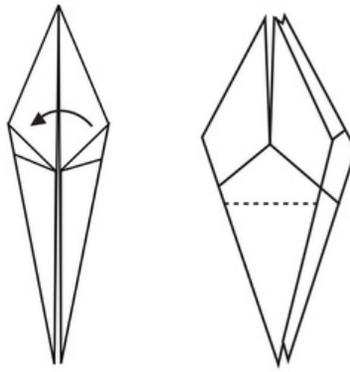
5. Fold the point down and crease above the other two folds. Flip the paper and repeat fold. Undo the folds you made in steps 4 and 5.



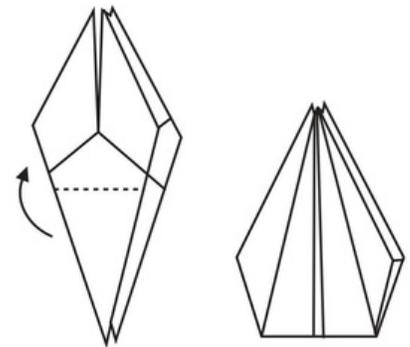
6. Pull the bottom corner (top layer only) up above the top corner. Fold along the creases you made in steps 4 and 5. Repeat on the other side.



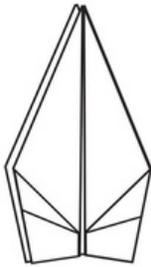
7. Fold two edges in to form a kite-shape. Repeat on the other side.



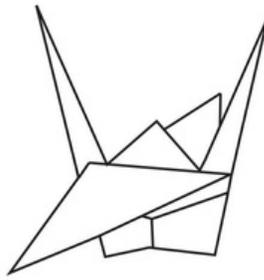
8. Fold the top layer (right side) to lay on top of the left side like turning the page of a book. Flip over and repeat on other side.



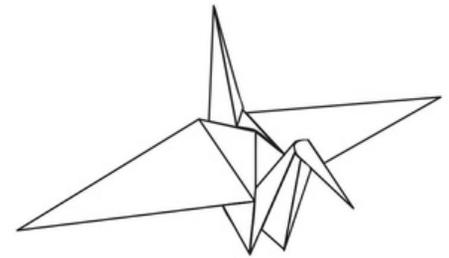
9. Fold up the top layer as far as you can on each side.



10. Fold the top layer (right side) to lay on top of the left side like turning the page of a book. Flip over and repeat on the other side.



11. Fold down wings.



12. Bend down the head to give the crane a long beak. Pull the wings straight out from the body so that the body inflates.

Finished!



International Crane Foundation

"Working worldwide to conserve cranes and the wetland, grassland, and other ecosystems upon which they depend."

www.savingcranes.org



BLANK PARK
ZOO

