

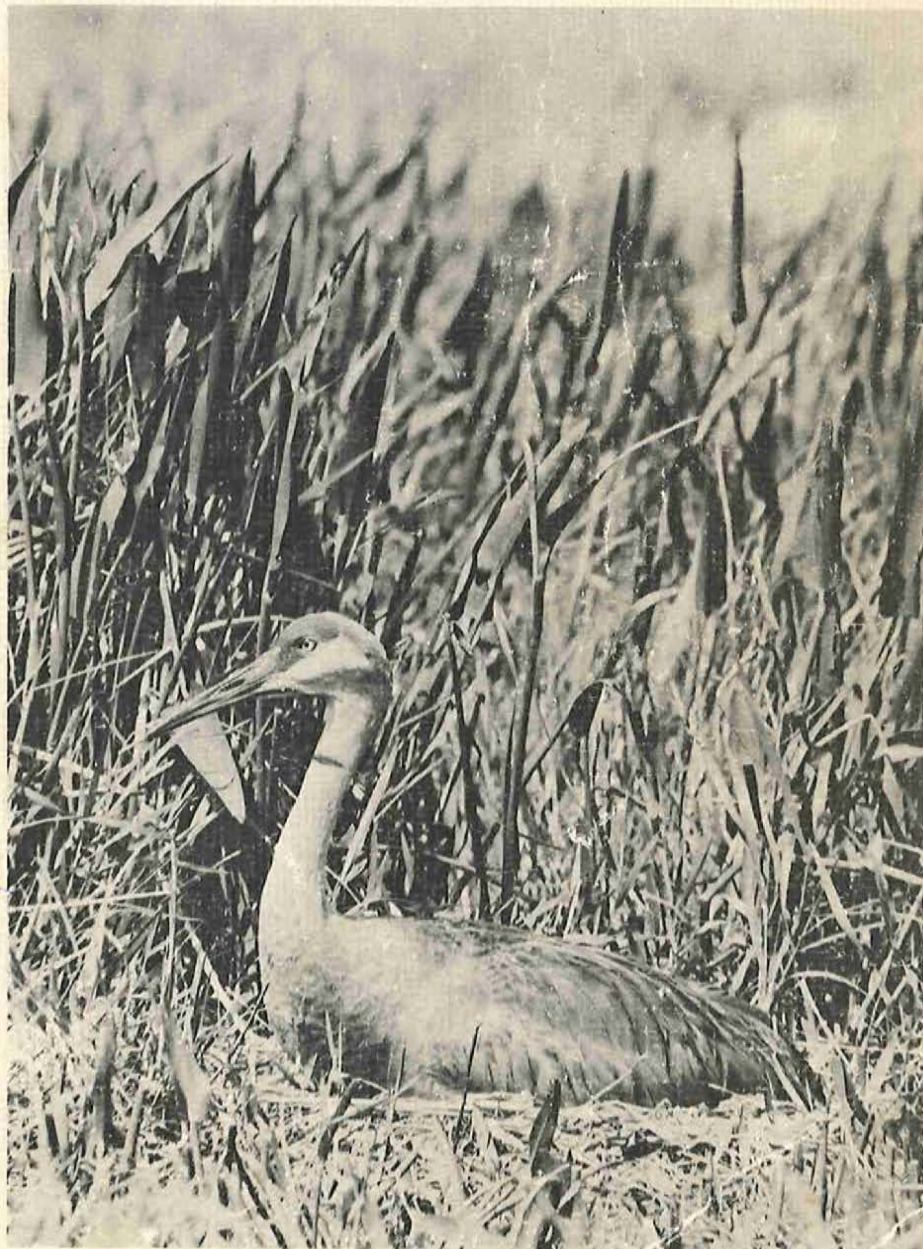
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Rockport, Texas  
December, 1978

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# Proceedings 1978 Crane Workshop



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Gray Beak

# PROCEEDINGS

1978

NAS  
9150 Darlie Street  
Suite 5  
Boulder, CO 80303

## CRANE WORKSHOP

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## PREFACE

This Proceedings includes 33 of the 40 papers presented at the 1978 Crane Workshop. The last three papers in this publication were not presented at the Workshop due to the full program schedule. Five papers presented at the Workshop were not submitted in time to meet deadlines set for publication. Two reports presented at the Workshop were being published elsewhere and, therefore, were not included in the Proceedings. One is the 48-page Geological Survey Circular 781 by G. P. Williams entitled The Case Of The Shrinking Channels - The North Platte and Platte Rivers In Nebraska, available free from Branch of Distribution, U. S. Geological Survey, 1200 South Eads Street, Arlington, VA 22202. The second is a portion of a Special Scientific Report - Wildlife by D. H. Johnson, entitled Modeling Of Sandhill Crane Population Dynamics, that will be published by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the summer of 1979.

The editor reviewed first drafts of all manuscripts. The authors provided camera-ready copy of their final manuscript. The requirement of camera-ready copy placed final editorial responsibility upon the authors and permitted prompt publication of the Proceedings.

The photo on the Proceedings cover (by L. H. Walkinshaw) shows a Florida sandhill crane on the nest. On the back cover are photos of: sandhill cranes near the Platte River Nebraska (lower photo by J. C. Lewis); eggs and nest of a greater sandhill crane in Michigan (L. H. Walkinshaw photo); and sandhill cranes near Muleshoe, Texas (L. H. Walkinshaw photo). The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided camera-ready paper stock used in the final typing and contributed some of the work time of the editor. The National Audubon Society paid all printing costs.--J. C. Lewis

## 1978 CRANE WORKSHOP

About 70 biologists from the United States and Canada convened in Rockport, Texas, 6-8 December 1978 for the Second Crane Workshop. The program, cochaired by Ron Sauvey (International Crane Foundation) and James C. Lewis (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service), included 40 papers dealing mainly with status, distribution, population dynamics, propagation, research techniques, habitat use, ecology, and management of whooping cranes (*Grus americana*) and sandhill cranes (*G. canadensis*).

Eight resolutions formulated by G. W. Archibald were circulated for signatures of Workshop participants. Resolutions dealing with cranes in foreign countries (1) encouraged the

government of India to protect the Ladakhi Wetlands, critical winter habitat for endangered black-necked cranes (*G. nigricollis*), and to protect this species from hunting and egg collecting in nesting marshes; (2) congratulated the Korean Council for Bird Preservation for their success in preserving the remaining winter habitat of Manchurian (*G. japonicus*) and white-naped cranes (*G. vipio*), and for their artificial feeding of Manchurian cranes in regions of low natural food supplies; (3) congratulated the Soviet Ministry of Agriculture and the Iran Department of Environment for their combined efforts to establish a population of Siberian cranes (*G. leucogeranus*) in west Asia using common cranes (*G. grus*) as foster parents; and (4) urged the Cuban government to permit research on the status, distribution, and habitat needs of the estimated 200 Cuban sandhill cranes (*G. c. nesiotis*) that survive in western Cuba and the Isle of Pines so that recommendations for their conservation can be made.

Resolutions concerning North America (1) congratulated the Nature Conservancy, U. S. Supreme Court, U. S. Department of the Interior (USDI), and State of Mississippi for success in conserving remnant habitats of Mississippi sandhill cranes (*G. c. pulla*), the world's rarest cranes; (2) congratulated the Canadian Wildlife Service, USDI, State of Idaho, and University of Idaho for encouraging results in establishing a population of whooping cranes in the Rocky Mountains (special recognition was extended to Rod Drewien for his efforts in this project); (3) urged governments of the United States and Canada to consider radio-equipping prefledged whooping cranes (30- to 35-g transmitter glued to leg band) to better determine migration behavior; and (4) proposed a moratorium on expansion of sandhill crane hunting because their habitat is diminishing and because hunting may be depleting their populations.

The resolution on hunting deserves further discussion because it may generate controversy. D. H. Johnson presented data at the workshop which suggested that continental populations of sandhill cranes will decline, but eventually stabilize, if current harvest rates continue. However, his models were in part based upon longterm spring censuses along Nebraska's Platte River, where up to 90% of North America's sandhills may concentrate. Other data presented at the workshop cast doubt on the accuracy of these censuses. Nonetheless, low recruitment rates for sandhills suggest the moratorium is prudent until their population dynamics are better understood and census techniques are improved. Furthermore, the effects of current harvest regulations, targeted at lesser (*G. c. canadensis*) and Canadian sandhill cranes (*G. c. rowani*), on the smaller populations of greater sandhill cranes (*G. c. tabida*) need to be quantified.--Fred S. Guthery

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