



*Sandhill Crane*

*L. A. Morgotch*

## WHERE DO SANDHILL CRANES RAISE THEIR YOUNG?

W. J. DOUGLAS STEPHEN, Canadian Wildlife Service, Prairie Migratory Bird Research Centre, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4.

I want to use satellite-produced maps to indicate potential Sandhill Crane breeding densities in Canada. The simplest way to do that seems to be to compare the kinds of places

Sandhill Cranes usually use for nesting and rearing their chicks with information about land that comes from satellites. Some of the places in Saskatchewan and Manitoba where

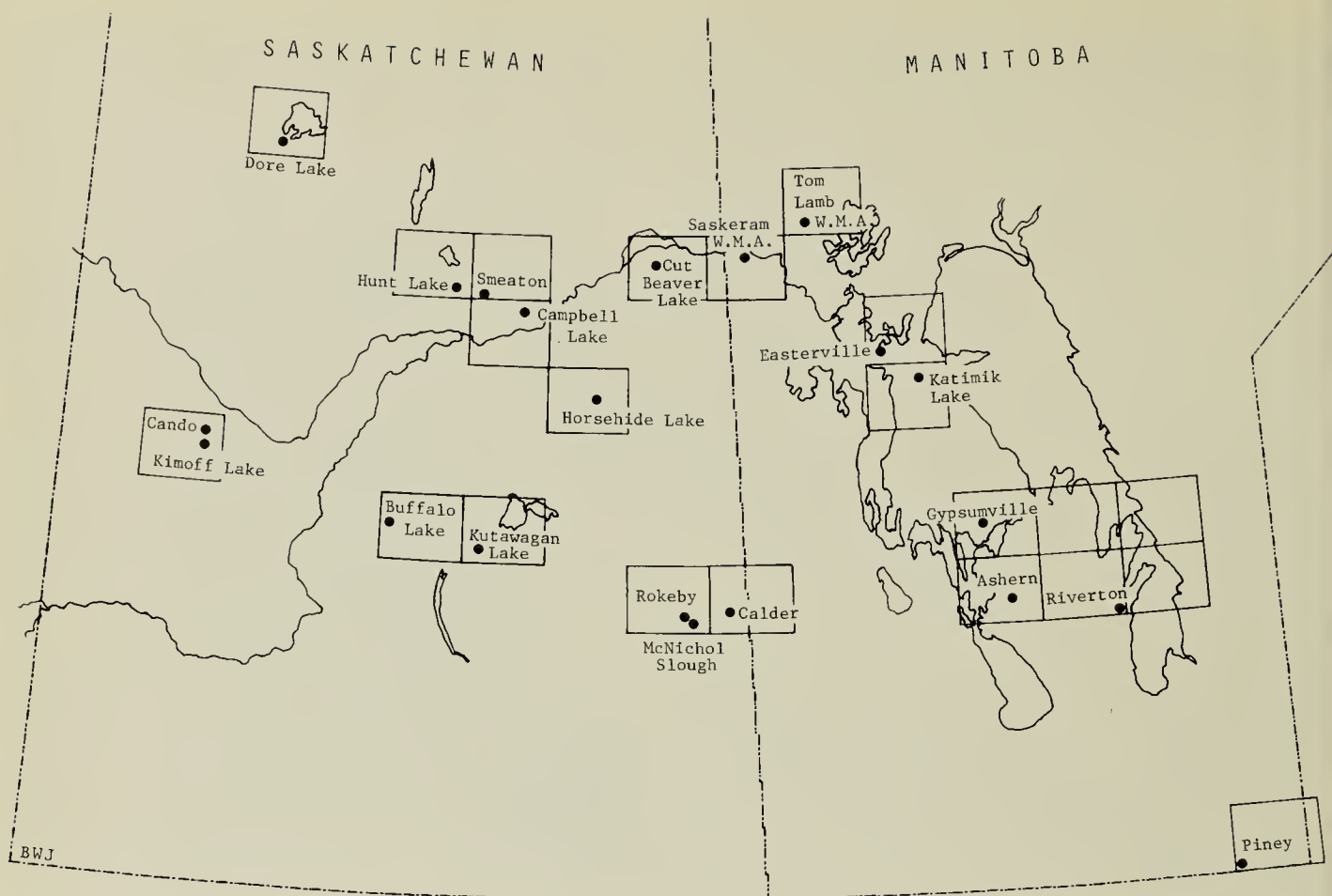


Figure 1: Distribution of recent Sandhill Crane breeding records in southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

breeding Sandhill Cranes have been recorded recently are shown in Fig. 1. Those places may be used every year, only occasionally or they may no longer be used by Sandhill Cranes. The way to find out is to see if cranes are present or absent for at least 3 consecutive years and, if present, attempting to raise chicks. To speed up the comparison with satellite information, I am looking for volunteers to check specific sites shown in more accessible parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba in Fig. 1 I will check similar sites in more remote areas myself and likely new sites where travel is more costly.

I will provide maps and satellite scenes for each site to any volunteer willing to thoroughly check the site for evidence of Sandhill Crane nests or young. The easiest time to get that information is when chicks are more

than half grown but still flightless, usually from July 15 to August 7. Information on nests is just as good but Sandhill Crane nests are very hard to find and downy chicks are even harder to find.

The time required could be several hours on one or more days, watching from a vantage point, walking or using any means of seeing breeding cranes. Canoes or boats are not needed. A motorcycle might be useful for travel near some wetlands. If a crane family is there, it may be seen as soon as the observer arrives at a marsh. I will be pleased to provide more information to anyone interested in this opportunity. I can provide maps, satellite pictures, other information, encouragement and gratitude, but not much more. I would like to know of anyone's interest for 1980 by 26 June.