

# W. J. D. STEPHEN, 1930-1981

On 14 January 1981, during Canadian Wildlife Service Program reviews in Edmonton, William John Douglas Stephen died suddenly. Although Doug had not been feeling well for a few days, there appeared to have been no advance warning of the severe heart attack which felled him in mid-career.

Doug was born in 1930 in Sudbury, Ontario, earning his BSA in 1957 at the University of Toronto's Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. It was three years later, also at OAC, that he received his MSA.

First employed as a seasonal Technical Officer with CWS in 1957, he joined CWS as a permanent employee in July 1959 in Saskatoon where he studied the effects of waterfowl predations on cereal crops in the prairies. From 1961 to 1963 Doug studied Sandhill Cranes, and this study led to his receiving the PhD degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1965. Doug experimented with methods for controlling waterfowl depredations on grain and he investigated the effectiveness of experimental lure crops. The work resulted in contributions to the North American Wildlife Conference and to several other journals; some of his findings are still being applied.

In September 1966, Doug was transferred to Edmonton to become Supervisor of Lands with CWS. His new duties included the management of lands leased for waterfowl production and development of management plans on general Crown land. Three years later he took a one-year position in Ottawa with the Science Council of Canada, returning afterwards to Edmonton to become manager, Migratory Birds Division, Western Region. In 1974 he took on the

major job of Regional Director, Western Region. Because of personal problems and ill health, Doug relinquished the position in 1976 and returned to active field research conducted from the Saskatoon office. Here he again became involved in Sandhill Crane studies but now for the purpose of identifying a suitable population to serve as foster parents for whooping cranes as in the Grays Lake program in Idaho. Doug was also developing methods for the identification of Sandhill Crane breeding habitat using satellite imagery.

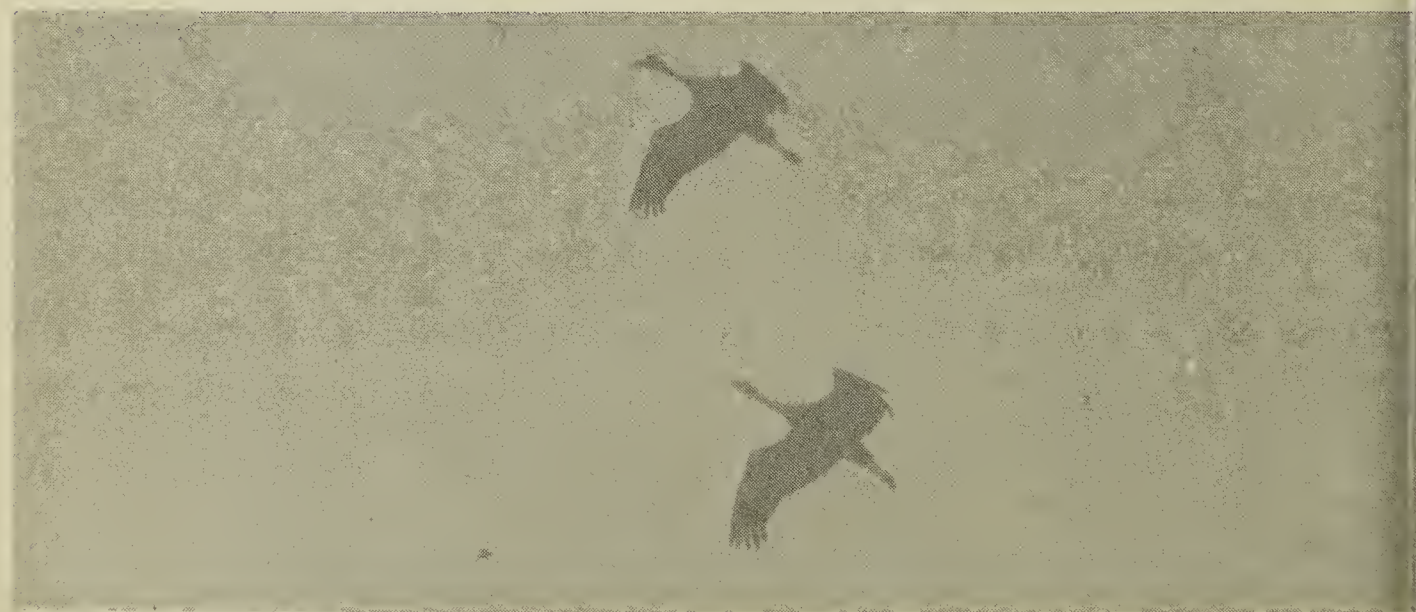
Doug, having a forceful approach to his work, was not the easiest person to work for. He could be a severe critic when being asked to referee or adjudicate papers or reports written by peers or juniors. Invariably, the changes he recommended made better scientific papers. As a research scientist he was greatly respected by his colleagues. I remember well the good discussions I had with Doug in 1977 when on my request he came north to Fort Smith to help with the tricky job of banding the first batch of young whoopers caught in Canada. Although we usually discussed our work, Doug also talked freely about his personal problems, and I have the highest admiration for the resolute manner in which he had already solved one of these problems.

Doug is survived by his wife Marge, daughters Anne and Elizabeth and son Orrin of Edmonton, son Brian in Australia, his parents of Capreol, Ontario, two brothers and three sisters. Funeral services were held at Edmonton on 17 January 1981, followed by cremation. The request was made that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to the Saskatoon Alcoholism Society, 323 Avenue R South, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7M 2Z2. — *Ernie Kuyt and*

Colleagues, Canadian Wildlife Service, 9942 - 108th Street, Edmonton, Alberta. T5K 2J5.

## Publications

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- \_\_\_\_\_. 1967. Bionomics of the sandhill crane. *CWS Report Series, No. 2.* 48 p.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. 1979. Social values of deserted island birds. *Blue Jay* 37(2):108-109.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1979. Whooping crane sightings, Prairie Provinces 1977 and 1978. *Blue Jay* 37(3):163-168.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1980. Where do sandhill cranes raise their young? *Blue Jay* 38(2):115-116.



*Sandhill Cranes at dawn.*

Wayne C. Harris