

## Marine Birds – Sandhill Crane Nests and Observations

### description

Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) are large birds with long legs and necks, long, pointed beaks, and wingspans that can exceed six feet across. Adults are grey with red crowns while juveniles are grey, washed with brown. These shorebirds tend to live in wet meadows and grasslands and they feed in grain fields and pastures. They breed in marshes and bogs, typically nesting in marsh vegetation or on the ground close to water. On the coast however, they forage in bays, estuaries, fens and marshes and generally breed on islets in bog pools.

The nest data illustrated in this atlas page is a combination of two datasets from the Raincoast Conservation Foundation. Both point datasets, one from 2007 and the other from 2008, display Sandhill Crane nest observations gathered from helicopter surveys and ground searches of estuaries and bogs from Hunter Island to Aristazabal Island on the outer central coast as well as parts of Porcher and Banks Islands on the north coast. Also displayed are observations of Sandhill Cranes from a variety of sources. These datasets were received as polygons, lines and points, respectively, and are displayed in the same format as they were received.



PHOTO: TONY CAMPBELL



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### data sources

- Bird Studies Canada – Coastal Waterbird Survey
- Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) – Coastal Waterbird Inventory
- Raincoast Conservation Foundation – Sandhill Crane Nest Sites and Observations

### data resolution

- Nest Sites – Original locations collected using GPS.
- Observation Points – Original locations collected using GPS.
- Observation Lines – Survey data were collected and recorded for sections of the coastline bounded by recognizable landmarks on a 1:250 000 map.
- Observation Polygons – Unknown.

### data collected

- 2007, 2008

### date compiled

- 2009

### reviewers

- Gary Kaiser, Consultant
- Krista Roessingh, Raincoast Conservation Foundation

### reviewer comments

- Nest sites too cryptic for use in analysis and occurrences should be used.
- There are no surveys with adequate power for decisions.
- Sandhill cranes have been sighted in almost every bay from Clam Bay near Owikeeno to Banks Island in the north.

### caveats of use

- Survey effort is not consistent across all planning units or across all areas of the coast and some species tend to be under-represented by some survey methods. Areas with no data may not have been surveyed and these data gaps are not necessarily indicative of an absence of Sandhill Cranes. Some locations may still be important to Sandhill Cranes but currently lack associated data to confirm their value.
- This feature is a compilation of data collected by many people, for different purposes, using different survey techniques with different methodologies within each technique and, therefore, considerable care must be taken when using the data.
- Recommended date of expiry for use of these data in a marine planning context: 2012

### map, feature data and metadata access

- Visit [www.bcmca.ca/data](http://www.bcmca.ca/data) for more information.

### references

Species description contains material from:

- B.C. Conservation Data Centre. *Species Summary: Grus canadensis*. BC Ministry of Environment (MoE) 2010. 21 Sep. 2010 <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/>
- Seattle Audubon Society. *BirdWeb – Seattle Audubon's Guide to the Birds of Washington*. Revised 2008. [www.seattleaudubon.org/birdweb](http://www.seattleaudubon.org/birdweb)

**BCMCA Atlas**  
**Marine Birds**  
**Sandhill Crane**

**Legend**

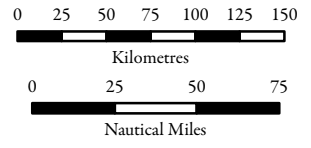
- Nesting Sites**
- Raincoast Conservation Foundation
- Observations**
- Raincoast Conservation Foundation
  - ~ Canada Wildlife Service
  - Bird Studies Canada

**Data Sources:**  
 Bird Studies Canada, Environment Canada (Canada Wildlife Service), Raincoast Conservation Foundation

**Base Data:**  
 ESRI Base Data, GeoBase, GeoBC, NOAA, Natural Resources Canada, USGS, Washington State Government

**Thematic Data:**  
 For more information on data sources and methods please refer to the facing page to this map

**Projection:** BC Albers NAD83



1:4,250,000 \*

\* Written scales are approximate and are based on a 11 x 17 inch paper size.

Prepared for:



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.

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