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LONGEVITY RECORDS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN GREATER SANDHILL CRANES BANDED DURING 1969-1987 IN IDAHO, MONTANA, UTAH, AND WYOMING

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Abstract: Cranes species throughout the world are renowned for their longevity; however, most records are based on individuals in captivity. We compiled longevity records for wild Rocky Mountain greater sandhill cranes (*Grus canadensis tabida*) banded in Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming during 1969-1987. Our analysis was based on over 180 band recoveries and over 1,700 visual observations of known-age individually marked birds from 1969 to 2008. We present only those birds of age >20 years for this summary. Our results yielded 56 birds known to be >20 yrs of age when killed or last observed. Of 7 band recoveries, 7 birds were shot in hunts and 1 died from entanglement in a barbed wire fence. The oldest birds were 35 and 37 years of age when recovered. Of 49 birds >20 years since last observed, the oldest had reached 35 years. Two others marked as adults reached a minimum of 29 years to a maximum of 35 years of age.

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Key words: band recovery, *Grus canadensis*, longevity, sandhill crane, Rocky Mountains.
