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DISTRIBUTION OF SANDHILL CRANES IN THE NORTH PLATTE RIVER VALLEY: 1980 AND 1989

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Abstract: We observed the abundance, diurnal distribution, and habitat use of sandhill cranes (*Grus canadensis*) in the North Platte River Valley (NPRV) in 1989 for comparisons to similar data from 1979 to 1980. Sandhill cranes traveled farther from nocturnal roosts to diurnal feeding sites and use of the NPRV was lower in 1989 as compared to 1979–80. Presence of cranes in corn stubble and pasture increased from 1980 to 1989, while presence in alfalfa and palustrine wetlands decreased. Plowing of corn stubble fields and drought conditions in 1989 may have influenced crane distribution, abundance, and habitat use.

Key Words: *Grus canadensis*, Nebraska, Platte River, sandhill crane

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