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January 1990

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### Recommended Citation

Nesbitt, Stephen A. (1990) "Unusual Peregrinations of a Sandhill Crane Banded in Florida," *Florida Field Naturalist*. Vol. 18 : Iss. 2 , Article 3.

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Florida Field Naturalist 18(2): 36-37, 1990.

### Unusual Peregrinations of a Sandhill Crane Banded in Florida

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The occurrence of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) east of the Appalachian Mountains is unusual. Walkinshaw (1949, 1960) lists several records for the region and, since his writings, periodic sightings of Greater Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis tabida*) along the eastern seaboard continue to be reported from New Jersey to South Carolina (Davis 1958; Dick 1965, 1967; Wood and Wood 1971; Conway 1976; Kirkwood 1982; Vaughn 1982). These records are well east of the typical wintering, migration, and nesting range for the eastern Greater Sandhill Crane population (Walkinshaw 1960, Nesbitt and Williams 1979, American Ornithologists' Union 1983). The fate of such extralimital individuals is usually unknown, and it is supposed they do not return to their traditional range and are lost from the population.

A juvenile Greater Sandhill Crane captured, banded (USF&WS #608-55661), and distinctly color marked (Nesbitt et al., in press) near Gainesville, Alachua County, in Florida (1 March 1985) was seen from 14 November 1986 to 20 January 1987 at Cape May, Cape May County, New Jersey (D. Ward Jr., pers. comm.). Then from 12 February until 5 March 1987, it was observed near Kirwan Creek on Kent Island, Queen Annes County, Maryland (R. J. Limpert, pers. comm.). The bird's age at this time was 2.50 to 2.75 years. At both these locations, the bird was reported to use "corn fields, natural meadows and small ponds" (R. J. Limpert and D. Ward Jr., pers. comm.).

From 27 August to 27 September 1987, the bird was seen near Massey, Ontario, Canada (R. Urbaneck, pers. comm.), and from 2 October to 8 October 1987 it was observed near Pickford, Mackinac County, Michigan (R. Urbaneck, pers. comm.). In Ontario and Michigan, the bird was seen associating with other Sandhill Cranes.

When beyond their normal range and without conspecifics to flock with, both Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) and Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) as well as Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) join with Sandhill Cranes during feeding, roosting, and loafing (Nesbitt 1975a, pers. obs.), so it might be expected that cranes would associate with geese when beyond their normal range. Neither in New Jersey nor in Maryland was the crane seen to associate closely with geese or any other birds (R. J. Limpert and D. Ward, Jr., pers. comm.). Of the other recent extralimital sightings of Sandhill Cranes, only Vaughn (1982) mentions that the bird he saw on 17 January 1977 was associating with geese: "flying in formation with 15 Snow Geese," then later "seen by others feeding with a flock of Snow Geese."

The typical first arrival date for Greater Sandhill Cranes that over-winter in Florida is late October or early November (Nesbitt et al., in press) which coincides with the first sighting of the crane in New Jersey. The last sighting of the crane in Maryland was 5 March 1987. Spring departure of Greater Sandhill Cranes from Florida usually begins in late February or early March (Nesbitt 1975b). The crane, banded during its first winter, spent its third winter as a solitary bird in New Jersey and Maryland, well east and north of the traditional wintering area for eastern Greater Sandhill Cranes. By late summer, the bird had rejoined others of its subspecies within the traditional range for the subspecies. The winter spent outside traditional range did not apparently affect the ultimate value of this individual since it may now be a functional (reproductive) contributor to the population.

I am indebted to D. Ward Jr., R. J. Limpert and R. Urbanek for reporting their sightings of this errant individual and sharing information on its behavior and activities.

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## ERRATUM

In "Breeding range expansions of the Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, and Blue Grosbeak in Florida with new records for Seminole County" by W. K. Taylor, B. H. Anderson, and H. M. Stevenson (1989, *Florida Field Naturalist* 17(1): 1-10), on page 8, line 8, ". . . male with young. . . ." should read ". . . juvenile male. . . ."