

Published on *South Coast Conservation Program* (<http://sccp.ca>)

## Sandhill Crane

*Grus canadensis*

A long-lived species of the family Gruidae (cranes), a group of birds known for elaborate and noisy courtship displays or "dances". Formerly broken down into three subspecies in BC, "Lesser, Georgia Depression Population" and "Greater" Sandhill Crane, only one species is now recognized.



Adult and juvenile Tom Freidel Flickr



Chick ("colt") winnu Flickr



Adults at Reiffel Bird Sanctuary D  
Gordon & E Robertson



Typical nest platform (Central Coast)

Ingmar Lee

## Characteristics

Perhaps the 'tallest' bird in BC, individuals which nest in temperate latitudes are the largest form. Plumage and body size are similar for both sexes (males in a breeding pair are slightly larger than the female). Body and wing feathers are varying shades of grey. In some regions where certain soils types occur, birds will preen iron rich mud into their feathers, creating an overall rust tinge. Bald, red skin covers the forehead and crown. Feathers on the face, chin, upper throat, and nape are white to pale grey. Adults have a white cheek patch. Legs and toes are dark grey to black. A cluster of large curved feathers or "bustle" characteristic of cranes, cover the lower back and tail feathers. Juvenile plumage changes from cinnamon brown to grey as the bird matures during the first year.

## Status

<b>Global Status:</b>	G5
<b>Provincial Status:</b>	S4B
<b>BC List Status:</b>	Yellow (Not at risk of extinction)

## Resources

### Species are Sacred - A Stó:l? World View on Species at Risk

Sandhill Crane (Sleem) factsheet. Content and original artwork by Carrielynn Victor (for the SCCP).

### Avian Collisions with Wind Turbines: A Summary of Existing Studies and Comparisons to Other Sources of Avian Collision

#### Mortality

### Are the Sandhill Cranes of British Columbia's (Canada's) Lower Mainland Endangered?

## For further information see

### Sandhill Cranes in the Great Bear Rainforest - videos of nesting pairs, rearing and foraging

### The Coastal Crane Atlas Project

The Coastal Crane Atlas is a project to map breeding areas of the small population of Sandhill Cranes that summers along the coast of British Columbia and southeast Alaska.

### BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

### British Columbia's Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

## **Develop With Care Guidelines (see Lower Mainland Region section)**

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

## **Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC**

Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

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**Source URL:** <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/sandhill-crane>

### **Links**

[1] <http://www.pacificwild.org/site/great-bear-live/raw-pacific-wild-live/sand-hill-cranes.html>

[2] <https://coastalcraneatlas.wordpress.com/>

[3] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[4] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[5] [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop\\_with\\_care\\_intro.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html)

[6] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>