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Fall 1991 and Spring 1992 Whooping Crane Reports

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FALL 1991 AND SPRING 1992 WHOOPING CRANE REPORTS

Information on whooping crane sightings along the migration routes was summarized and distributed by the Fish and Wildlife Service Nebraska/Kansas Field Office in Grand Island. Many organizations and individuals participated in this important project. A few general comments will be made before giving details of the Nebraska sightings.

The first dates for confirmed sightings of whooping cranes on the fall, 1991 migration were August 12 in Canada (Saskatchewan) and October 8 in the United States (Nebraska); the last date was November 19 in Oklahoma. A total of 132 whooping cranes (82 adults, 42 subadults, and 8 juveniles) spent the winter of 1991-92 at Aransas. One adult was lost during the winter, but all the rest had left Aransas by April 15, 1992. The first sighting for the spring, 1992 migration was on April 8 near Dinsmore, Saskatchewan (the earliest sighting in this Canadian province since the spring of 1976). Nebraska reported 5 of the 50 confirmed sightings during the fall migration, and 13 of the 21 sightings during the spring migration.

By mid-June, 1992, 40 nests and 35 chicks had been located on the breeding grounds. Between 1977 and 1988, 132 juvenile whooping cranes were color-marked with leg bands, and 61 of these were accounted for during the winter of 1991-92. The Fish and Wildlife Service stresses the importance of observers looking for the colored leg bands as a means of providing new information on the migration patterns of these magnificent birds.

An unbanded whooping crane spent the summer of 1991 in northwestern Nebraska. The fall, 1991 and spring, 1992 Nebraska sightings of whooping cranes are given in the following tables. For information on sightings in other regions, contact Mr. Wally Jobman, Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, USFWS, NE/KS Field Office, 203 West Second Street, Grand Island, NE 68801.

Abbreviations: E = east, W = west, N = north, S = south, ad.= adults, yg.= young.

WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA, FALL 1991

<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. cranes</u>	<u>Location</u>
		<u>Confirmed Sightings</u>
7/15-10/11	1	Dawes Co., 3 mi. W of Whitney, also 3 mi. SE of Whitney. T33N, R51W, S33,34; T32N, R50W, S8,17.
10/8-10/11	1	Logan Co., 7.5 mi. W, 0.75 mi. N of Arnold. T17N, R26W, S20, NW.25.
10/20-10/21	4	Rock/Keya Paha Co., 5 mi. E, 12 mi. N of Bassett, Niobrara River. T32N, R18W, S9.

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WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA, FALL 1991 (cont'd)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. cranes</u>	<u>Location</u>
10/24	2	Logan Co., 5.5 mi. S, .5 mi. E of Stapleton. T17N, R28W, S36, SW.25, SE.25.
10/22	2	Sherman Co., Middle Loup River, .5 mi. west of Rockville. T13N, R13W, S5,8.
10/22	2	Buffalo Co., 6 mi. E, 5.5 mi. S of Ravenna. T11N, R13W, S16, SW.25.
<u>Probable Sightings</u>		
10/6	4	Lincoln Co., flying over Jeffrey Reservoir.
10/20	3	Phelps Co., near Johnson WPA, 8 mi. N, 2 mi. E of Holdrege.
<u>Unconfirmed Sightings</u>		
10/2	1	Buffalo Co., 2 mi. E of Elm Creek I-80 exit.
10/20	2	Buffalo Co., flying over Ravenna.
10/22	6	Cheyenne Co., 7 mi. E, 2-3 S of Dalton.

WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA, SPRING 1992

<u>Confirmed Sightings</u>		
4/10-12	4 ad. 1 yg.	Kearney Co., Gleason Waterfowl Production Area (WPA), 4 mi. W, 4 S of Minden. T5N, R15W, S4, NW.25; T6N, R15W, S33, SE.25.
4/13	8	Kearney Co., Gleason WPA, 4 mi. W, 4 S of Minden. T5N, R15W, S4, NW.25.
4/10	2	Buffalo Co., .5 mi. E of Gibbon bridge, Platte River. T8N, R14W, S12, NE.25.
4/10-11	4	Buffalo Co., 2 mi. W of Gibbon bridge, Platte River. T8N, R14W, S10, SE.25.
4/10-11	6	Dawson Co., .25 mi. east of Overton bridge, Platte River. T8N, R20W, S12, NE.25.
4/11	4	Lincoln Co., .25 mi. NW of Hwy 30 bridge at North Platte, North Platte River. T14N, R30W, S35, SE.25.

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WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA, SPRING 1992 (cont'd)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. cranes</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Confirmed Sightings (cont'd)</u>		
4/13-14	4	Lincoln Co., 1.5 mi. S, 4.25 W of Wellfleet. T9N, R31W, S23, E.25, SE.25.
4/12-14	2 ad. 1 yg.	Lincoln Co., 2 mi. N of Wellfleet. T10N, R30W, S33, W.25, SE.25, S28, SW.25, NW.25.
4/11-12	2	Dawson Co., 2 mi. N, .25 E of Gothenburg. T12N, R25W, S34, NW.25.
4/14	4 ad. 1 yg.	Buffalo Co., 2.5 mi. W of Gibbon bridge, Platte River. T8N, R14W, S15, NW.25, NW.25.
4/13-14	4	Lincoln Co., 11 mi. SW of Arnold. T16N, R27W, S3, E.5.
4/15-16	4	Cherry Co., 14 mi. S, 9 W of Cody. T32N, R35W, S20, NE.25, S23; T32N, R34W, S30.
4/16	4	Thomas Co., 4 mi. W of Halsey, Middle Loup River. T23N, R26W, S32, SE.25.
<u>Probable Sightings</u>		
4/12	2	Lincoln Co., 2.5 mi. N, 3 W of North Platte.
4/13	8	Kearney Co., 4.5 mi. S, 5 E of Kearney. Flying.
5/5	1	Logan Co., Cody Lake.
<u>Unconfirmed Sightings</u>		
3/26	1	Buffalo Co., Audubon Sanctuary.
4/2	1	Brown Co., flying over Ainsworth.
4/27	3	Scotts Bluff Co., bridge crossing between Gering and Scottsbluff. Flying.

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WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA, SPRING 1992 (cont'd)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. cranes</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Confirmed Sightings (cont'd)</u>		
4/13-14	4	Lincoln Co., 1.5 mi. S, 4.25 W of Wellfleet. T9N, R31W, S23, E.25, SE.25.
4/12-14	2 ad. 1 yg.	Lincoln Co., 2 mi. N of Wellfleet. T10N, R30W, S33, W.25, SE.25, S28, SW.25, NW.25.
4/11-12	2	Dawson Co., 2 mi. N, .25 E of Gothenburg. T12N, R25W, S34, NW.25.
4/14	4 ad. 1 yg.	Buffalo Co., 2.5 mi. W of Gibbon bridge, Platte River. T8N, R14W, S15, NW.25, NW.25.
4/13-14	4	Lincoln Co., 11 mi. SW of Arnold. T16N, R27W, S3, E.5.
4/15-16	4	Cherry Co., 14 mi. S, 9 W of Cody. T32N, R35W, S20, NE.25, S23; T32N, R34W, S30.
4/16	4	Thomas Co., 4 mi. W of Halsey, Middle Loup River. T23N, R26W, S32, SE.25.
<u>Probable Sightings</u>		
4/12	2	Lincoln Co., 2.5 mi. N, 3 W of North Platte.
4/13	8	Kearney Co., 4.5 mi. S, 5 E of Kearney. Flying.
5/5	1	Logan Co., Cody Lake.
<u>Unconfirmed Sightings</u>		
3/26	1	Buffalo Co., Audubon Sanctuary.
4/2	1	Brown Co., flying over Ainsworth.
4/27	3	Scotts Bluff Co., bridge crossing between Gering and Scottsbluff. Flying.