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SPRING 1991 WHOOPING CRANE REPORT

The following is a synopsis of the report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with regard to Whooping Crane sightings from Spring 1991. The report consists of confirmed, probable, and unconfirmed sightings during the season. These terms are defined in *NBR* 56:79.

The USFWS states that 135 Whooping Cranes began the spring migration, compared to 142 in 1990. This drop of seven birds represents the first population decrease since 1981. Most confirmed sightings en route to Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada, were made between April 14 and April 23. Overcast skies and low visibility delayed the usual early April migration. Tragically, one Whooping Crane was shot and killed in Bend, Texas. One subadult bird is still at Aransas at last report and is expected to summer there. In Canada, 31 nests had been located on the breeding grounds since early June.

In Nebraska, there were 6 confirmed, 7 probable, and 11 unconfirmed sightings of Whooping Cranes. The table below outlines the Nebraska sightings. Those NOU members interested in further information about these sightings should contact Wally Jobman, USFWS, Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, NE/KS Field Office, 203 W. Second Street, Grand Island, NE 68801.

Confirmed Sightings

4/14-15/91	3 adults	Frontier Co.	2 miles southwest of Stockville. T6N, R27W, S8, NW ¹ / ₄ , SW ¹ / ₄ , and S9, SW ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ .
4/21/91	3 adults	Loup Co.	4 miles south and 5 miles west of Almeria. T21N, R20W, S22, SW ¹ / ₄ , SW ¹ / ₄ .
4/21-22/91	4 adults	Harlan Co.	2 miles west of Republican City. T2N, R17W, S32, NW ¹ / ₄ .
4/22-23/91	2 adults	Custer Co.	3 miles southeast of Milburn. T20N, R21W, S25, NW ¹ / ₄ , NE ¹ / ₄ .
4/22-23/91	2 adults, 1 subadult	Kearney Co.	3 miles south and 4 miles west of Minden. Gleason WPA. T5N, R15W, S4, NW ¹ / ₄ , SW ¹ / ₄ .
4/23-24/91	3 adults	Rock/Keya Paha Co.	2 miles west of Carns, Niobrara River. T32N, R19W, S23, SW ¹ / ₄ .

Probable Sightings

3/26/91	2 adults	Lincoln Co.	1.5 miles southwest of North Platte. Flying.
4/11/91	2 adults	Buffalo Co.	1.5 miles east of Hwy. 10 Platte River bridge. Flying.
4/11/91	1 adult	Lincoln Co.	1 to 2 miles north of Hershey.
4/15/91	5 adults	Dawson Co.	Flying over Darr Platte River bridge.
4/24/91	3 adults	Frontier Co.	1 mile north of Curtis. T8N, R28W, S20.
4/29/91	1 adult	Logan Co.	10 miles north and 3 miles west of Stapleton.

5/5/91	2 adults	Lincoln Co.	8 miles northwest of Farnum. T10N, R26W, S27, W ¹ / ₂ .
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Unconfirmed Sightings

3/3/91	1 adult	Kearney Co.	Near Minden Platte River bridge. Flying.
3/6/91	1 adult	Hall Co.	Flying over southwest Grand Island.
3/14/91	3 adults	Lincoln Co.	Between Hershey and North Platte. Flying.
3/16/91	1 adult	Hall Co.	1 mile west of Alda I-80 exit.
3/21/91	7 adults	Lincoln Co.	2 miles east of Hershey. Flying.
4/6/91	2 adults	Boyd Co.	5 to 6 miles below Fort Randall Dam. Flying.
4/12/91	9 adults	Hall Co.	2 miles south of Doniphan. Flying.
4/14/91	3 adults	Nance Co.	Loup River, south of Fullerton.
4/14/91	5 adults	Dawson Co.	Near Overton Platte River bridge.
4/16/91	2 adults	Adams Co.	Ayr Lake, southeast of Hastings.
4/26/91	3 adults	Deuel Co.	Between Big Springs and I-80. Flying.