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3-1991

## Fall 1990 Whooping Crane Report

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Jobman, Wally, "Fall 1990 Whooping Crane Report" (1991). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 405.  
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### Fall 1990 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 this fall. The report consists of confirmed, probable, and unconfirmed sightings during the season (these terms are defined in *NBR* 56:79). The USFWS states that under best conditions 155 cranes, including at least 13 fledged young, should have made the trip to Aransas this fall. As of December 19, 1990, nine of these birds had not arrived. The most spectacular confirmed sighting of the fall was a record group of 13 birds seen together in Saskatchewan on October 12. Twelve separate confirmed sightings were also reported in areas around Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas, the important wetlands area which has been much beleaguered by drought as of late. Perhaps most encouraging

is that the fall season produced a record 78 confirmed sightings in the United States and Canada during fall migration.

In Nebraska, there were 6 confirmed, 10 probable, and 12 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

10/23/90	3 adults	Buffalo Co.	Near Gibbon bridge over Platte River. Flying.
10/24/90	2 adults	Keith Co.	West End of Lake McConaughy, south of Omaha Beach.
10/26-27/90	2 adults, 1 subadult	Hall Co.	2.5 miles west of Wood River bridge, Platte River. T9N, R12W, S23, 27, 29.
10/29/90	1 adult	Cherry Co.	Flying over Ft. Niobrara NWR HQ, 3 mi. east of Valentine. T34N, R27W, S26.
11/1/90	1 adult	Buffalo Co.	.5 mi. west (T8N, R15W, S13) and 1 mi. east (T8N, R14W, S17) of Hwy. 10 Platte River Bridge. Flying.
11/7-9/90	2 adults, 1 subadult	Frontier Co.	Medicine Creek Reservoir, T5N, R26W, S14.

#### Probable Sightings

10/20/90	2 adults	Cherry Co.	Niobrara River, 3 mi. south of Valentine.
10/25/90	2 adults	Howard Co.	5 mi. west of St. Paul on Hwy. 92.
10/26/90	3 adults	Valley Co.	1 mi. north of Arcadia
10/27/90	3 adults	Webster Co.	1 mi. south and 3 mi. west of Inavale. Flying.
10/18/90	3 adults	Keith Co.	3 mi. north and 2 mi. east of Ogallala.
10/21/90	4 adults, 1 subadult	Custer Co.	2 mi. west of Gates.
10/25/90	4 adults	McPherson Co.	15 mi. west of Tryon. Flying.
10/29/90	1 adult	Custer Co.	Flying over Arnold.
11/3/90	3 adults	Brown Co.	South of Johnstown at Moon Lake.
11/3/90	3 adults	Brown Co.	15 mi. south and .5 mi. west of Johnstown.

#### Unconfirmed Sightings

8/5/90	1 adult	Perkins Co.	1.5 mi. south and 1.5 mi. west of Madrid. T10N, R37W, S19, NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .
9/16/90	1 adult	Kearney Co.	North of Hwy 6/34 between Axtell and Minden. Flying.
9/25/90	1 adult	Rock Co.	11 mi. south and 3 mi. east of Newport. T28N, R17W, S2, N <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> .
10/10/90	4 adults	Rock Co.	8 mi. south of Bassett. Flying.
10/12/90	1 adult	Brown Co.	Hwy. 183/20 Jct. east of Ainsworth. Flying.
10/18/90	3 adults	Buffalo Co.	7 mi. north of Kearney on Hwy. 10. Flying.
10/13/90	6 adults	Cherry Co.	Big Alkali Lake, 20 mi. south of Valentine.
Unknown	6 adults	Logan Co.	12 mi. southwest of Dunning
10/23/90	1 adult	Hamilton Co.	2.5 mi. east of Phillips I-80 exit. Flying.
10/24/90	6 adults	Garden Co.	2 mi. southeast of Lewellen. Flying.
11/3/90	13-14 adults	Buffalo Co.	3 mi. west and 1 mi. south of Elm Creek.
11/9/90	2 adults	Blaine Co.	4.5 mi. east of Purdum. Flying.