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## Whooping Crane Sightings during July-December 1995 Migration

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WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTINGS DURING JULY-DECEMBER, 1995 MIGRATION  
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The first dates recorded for confirmed observations of migrating Whooping Cranes were July 13 in Canada and September 21 in the United States, and the last date was November 6 in Nebraska. Sightings were reported in Canada from Alberta (1) and Saskatchewan (34), and in the U.S. from North Dakota (4), South Dakota (1), Nebraska (4), Kansas (10), and Oklahoma (2). The weather during September and October was mild with minor disturbances on Sept. 20 and Oct. 23 causing snow over the Northern Great Plains. The first significant outbreak of cold air occurred during the week of November 5. Based on reported sightings, the peak of the migration occurred between October 21 and November 3. On Oct. 30, 30 Whooping Cranes were confirmed on the ground in Kansas. The migration progressed quite rapidly, and by November 7, 122 birds had arrived at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. By mid-December, 155 birds (127 adults/subadults and 28 young, both record numbers) were overwintering at Aransas.

In addition to the following confirmed and probable sightings in Nebraska, an unconfirmed sighting of three cranes in flight was reported from Hitchcock County five miles northeast of Palisade on Oct. 24. The legal descriptions of locations by township and range, and information for other states can be obtained from the NBR Editor or from Wally Jobman at the address listed under the title.

<u>Sighting Date</u>	<u>No. of Cranes</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Confirmed Sightings:</u>		
10/24/95	3	Custer Co., flying 6 mi. east of Broken Bow along Hwy 2.
10/25/95	5	Buffalo Co., Platte River, 2.75 mi. east of Hwy 10 bridge.
11/03/95	1	Buffalo Co., flying over Kearney.
11/06-16/95	1	Kearney Co., 2.5 mi. north, 1.5 mi. west of Axtell.
<u>Probable Sightings:</u>		
10/04/95	3	Howard Co., 3 mi. south of Dannebrog, Loup River.
10/24/95	7	Dawson Co., flying over Overton I-80 interchange.
10/24/95	3	Hayes Co., flying 5 mi. northeast of Palisade.
11/03/95	8	Buffalo Co., flying 5 mi. west of Kearney bridge.

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