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## Whooping Crane Sightings during Spring Migration, 1993

Steven Anschutz

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, [Steve\\_Anschutz@fws.gov](mailto:Steve_Anschutz@fws.gov)

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WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTINGS DURING SPRING MIGRATION, 1993  
Steven Anschutz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
203 West Second St., Grand Island, NE 68801

A total of 136 whooping cranes began the migration from Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in the spring of 1993, and all the cranes had left by April 26. The migration proceeded rapidly, with no major storms within the flyway. The first dates for confirmed observations of migrating cranes were April 2 in the U.S. and April 5 in Canada. The last sighting date was June 2 in Saskatchewan, Canada. Sightings were reported from Texas (1), Oklahoma (1), Kansas (7), Nebraska (8), South Dakota (3), North Dakota (2), and Saskatchewan, Canada (22). The longest stopover time was a juvenile, migrating alone, which stopped in central Kansas for 14 days. There were 14 cranes on a small wetland playa in central Kansas, a new record for size of a migration group in the U.S. By early June, 42 nests had been located on the northern breeding grounds. The contact for more information is Wally Jobman at the above address, phone (308)382-6468.

Dates and locations of Nebraska confirmed sightings are as follows (underlined numbers are birds with colored leg bands) :

<u>Spring '93 Date</u>	<u>No. Cranes</u>	<u>Location</u>
4/9-10	<u>4</u> adult 1 young	Buffalo Co., 1½ mi. east of Hwy 10 bridge, Platte River. T8N, R14W, S17, NW¼
4/9-10	2 adults	Hall Co., 12/3 mi. east of Alda bridge, Platte River. T9N, R10W, S5, SE¼ of NW¼.
4/10	2 adults	Hall Co., 1 mi. west of Wood River bridge, Platte River. T9N, R11W, S18, SW¼.
4/11	2 adults	Buffalo Co., flying over Pleasanton. T12N, R16W, S36.
4/10-11	2 adults	Buffalo Co., 11 mi. north and 2 west of Kearney. T10N, R16W, S3, W¼.
4/11-17	<u>5</u> adults	Antelope Co., 5 mi. southeast of Creighton. T28N, R5W, S13, SW¼.
4/16	9 adults	Keya Paha Co., 4.3 mi. north of Norden. T34N, R24W, S12.
4/16	<u>4</u> adults	Keya Paha/Brown Cos., ½ mi. west of Norden bridge, Niobrara River. T33N, R23W. S32. SE¼.