



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WHOOPING CRANES ARRIVE IN TEXAS

Twenty-one whooping cranes have reached their destination safely in the annual fall migration from Canada to Texas.

Reports from Fish and Wildlife Service officials at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on Texas' Gulf coast reveal that 18 adult cranes and three young have made the long flight successfully and are now settling down for the winter on the Federal sanctuary.

Weekly counts by the refuge staff reveal that the tally has remained at 21 birds since November 6. Twenty-one was also the official count last April when the cranes took off for the north. A report from Saskatchewan, Canada, however, discloses that three additional cranes were observed there, winging southward, on November 5. This gives rise to hopes that this fall's count may come to 24 or better by the time stragglers have put in their appearance at the whoopers' traditional wintering grounds.

Because the giant birds have been on the verge of extinction for a number of years, every precaution has been taken to assure the cranes a safe passage from Canada to Texas in the autumn and back to Canadian breeding grounds in the spring. Hope for the survival of this species is seen in the fact that three of the birds making the successful flight this fall belong to a new generation.

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