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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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INTERIOR RELEASES WHOOPING CRANE MOTION PICTURE

Spectacular flight scenes of the rare whooping cranes photographed in slow motion on their wintering grounds in Texas feature a new Department of the Interior sound-color motion picture film which will be available for booking by August 15.

The film is 16 mm and runs 14 minutes. Television copies will also be available for public service or noncommercial use.

The new picture which portrays the family life of the whooping crane is the newest film in the library of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Produced by the Service's Office of Information, it tells briefly the story of the efforts which the people of two nations are making to save the species from extinction.

The whooping crane, popularized in the past year or two on postage stamps of Canada and the United States, has become the living symbol of wildlife conservation in North America.

In addition to the flight scenes taken on or near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf of Mexico, brief passing aerial views over the central wheat fields farther north and the nesting grounds in a vast uninhabited area near Great Slave Lake, Canada, 2,500 miles north of the Gulf, are shown.

The Aransas pictures show the stately white birds in flight, landing and taking off, and at such routine things as selecting "territory," searching the marsh for food, exercising and resting. Such management practices on the refuge area as making a census from an airplane, taking observations from elevated watching stations, and inspecting the grounds by jeep are included.

The nesting ground scenes deep in the Canadian Northwest include pictures of the birds and the habitat where the whooper had successfully concealed its nests and nesting areas from prying eyes for many decades. Shots are also shown of other birds and animals which use the same wintering and nesting areas as the cranes.

Included, too, are pictures of Josephine and Crip, the much-publicized mated pair "grounded" because of injuries but now successfully rearing more whoopers in captivity at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans.

Persons or organizations desiring the loan of the film, "The Whooping Crane," should write to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the interior, Washington 25, D. C., for information about booking dates.

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