



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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RECORD NUMBER OF YOUNG WHOOPERS AT REFUGE

Nine young whooping cranes, the highest number of young counted since the keeping of records began in the winter of 1938-1939, are now at their wintering grounds on Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas coast, the Department of the Interior reported today.

The previous high was eight young reported in the fall of 1955. There are 18 adult cranes on the refuge at the present time, making the total there 27. Twenty-six birds went north in the spring.

Officials of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, stated today that this could be a banner year for the whooping crane. The previous high count since record keeping began was 34 birds in the winter of 1949-1950. If the entire 26 birds which went north return the total wild birds will be 35 to which must be added the six whooping cranes now in captivity for a total of 41 whoopers.

In 1938-1939 there were only 14 whooping cranes in existence. In 1940-1941 this number had increased to 26 but the next year only 15 were recorded. In 1954-1955 there were 21 adult whoopers but no young ones on the refuge.

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