



the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge in Colorado. The bird, a young male called Canus from the first three letters of Canada and the abbreviation for the United States, has been treated for its injuries, including a broken wing, by Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. The wingbone has been pinned together and is now healing satisfactorily.

Altogether, there are eight whooping cranes in captivity--three females and five males. The seven birds, in addition to Canus, are in the Audubon Park Zoo in New Orleans. The two oldest birds at New Orleans are the famous Crip and Josephine, parents of four other whoopers at the zoo. The seventh bird is Rosie, a former resident of the San Antonio, Texas, Zoo and now on loan to the Audubon Park Zoo as a mate for one of Crip and Josephine's progeny.

The three captive females have built nests, but no eggs have been laid, probably because of the late spring and accompanying low temperatures.

A tabulation of young birds reaching Aransas over the years indicates that approximately 126 different whooping cranes have been seen since 1938. Although last winter's 42 birds represent a record, it is obvious that the loss of whooping cranes in the wild has been high. An awakening public interest has undoubtedly prevented the shooting of some birds, but by far the greatest loss of whoopers is from unknown causes, the Fish and Wildlife Service said.

Whooping cranes are included in a proposed Interior Department program aimed at preserving endangered forms of wildlife. Approximately 120 different kinds of rare or endangered animals, including birds, mammals, fishes, reptiles, and amphibians are expected to come under this program.

The wild whooper flock's long migration route normally crosses Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas and on into the wild reaches of northern Alberta. They do not make this flight nonstop. The Platte River in central Nebraska seems to be a favored resting place. Whoopers have also been sighted during migration stopovers at the Kirwin and Quivira National Wildlife Refuges in Kansas and Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota.

Although there have been no reported shooting of whoopers in recent years, people along this entire migration route have again been reminded by the Fish and Wildlife Service not to shoot or otherwise harm any large white bird for fear it might be one of a small flock of whoopers making a strong fight for survival.

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