UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

FEATURE MATERIAL
Most 343-5634

For Release MAY 13, 1966

LONE WHOOPING CRANE IS NO HOOD, NAME CHANGED FROM SCARNECK TO MAVERICK

"Scarneck," the anti-social whooping crane who continued to bask in Texas sunshine long after the rest of his tribe had gone north, has been officially dubbed "Maverick" by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

"He's not a gangster type but just a whooper wanting to go his own way--a loner--a maverick," says John S. Gottschalk, Director of the Bureau.

The individualistic bird, one of the 44 whooping cranes that wintered on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, is habitually the last to leave the area in the spring and first to get back in the fall.

"He isn't 'mixed up,' but has simply discovered that the early bird gets the pick of the feeding territories at Aransas," Gottschalk quipped. That doesn't explain why he stays late, though.

The name "Scarneck" came from oddly arranged feathers on the bird's neck which make him easy to distinguish from the other whoopers.

But the Federal wildlife agency doesn't feel that a name like Scarneck is dignified enough for such a distinguished bird. Accordingly, Maverick was suggested--Southwestern lingo for cattle, people, or cranes who show non-conformist tendencies. Maverick is now believed to be on his way north since an aerial check of the Aransas area on May 8 failed to locate him.

x x x

79742