

Whooping Crane

Grus americana



Range: Northwest Territories to Mexico

Size: ♂: 104 cm (52 in)

♀: 104 cm (52 in)

Weight: ♂: 6.8 kg (15 lbs)

♀: 6.8 kg (15 lbs)

Wing: ♂: 87 cm (87 in)

♀: 61 cm (87 in)

Habitat: Wetlands

Incubation: 28-31 days

Eggs: 2-5

Fledge: 8-12 weeks

Sexual maturity: 36-48 months

Nest: circular on ground

Social: pairs

Breeding: monogamous

Movement: Migratory

Food: Tubers, crabs small vertebrates

IUCN: Critically Endangered

Subspecies: Monotypic

Longevity: captive: 40 yrs Wild: 30

Order: Gruiformes Family: Gruidae

The Whooping Crane was at one time one of the most endangered species in North America. In the 1940's there were as few as 21 whooping cranes in the wild. Today the number has risen to nearly 600. There are only two breeding grounds left for the whooping crane: Northwest Territories Canada and Wisconsin U.S. They migrate to the coast of Texas at Port Aransas for the winter. There is also a small non migratory population along the Gulf Coast from Louisiana to Florida. The main threat to the species is habitat loss. In addition to direct protection of the species conservation of the wetlands is important for the future of the whooping crane.