



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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INTERIOR REPORTS RECORD NUMBER OF WHOOPING CRANES

There are 32 whooping cranes on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas--23 adults and nine young--the Department of the Interior reported today. twenty-six adults migrated northward in the spring, leaving only three of the birds untallied.

Counting the six whoopers in captivity the total now known to exist in the world is 38, the highest number since record keeping began 20 years ago. The highest previous count was 34 wild whooping cranes and two in captivity in 1949-50.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials explained that the whooping cranes are sometimes slow in arriving at their wintering grounds on the Gulf Coast, that quite often the last whooper does not arrive until December. For this reason the officials are optimistic about the possibilities of all 26 adult birds returning. However, one of the young birds at Aransas has only one parent, which might indicate the loss of a bird.

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