UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

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ANOTHER YOUNG WHOOPER SEEN

The 1961 whooping crane crop numbers at least four young birds, and a total of 26 young and adults have been counted in the Sass River area of the Northwest Territories, according to latest word from Canada to the Department of the Interior.

A helicopter flight in the remote Sass River area on September 18 revealed seven pairs without young and four pairs with one young bird each. At that time, migration of the whoopers did not yet appear imminent, resident birds still being there. This information was transmitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

In a flight in the same area in August, three young whoopers and 11 adults were seen, an earlier report received by the Bureau from Canada stated.

The 1960 population of wild whooping cranes totalled 36 birds, six of them young of the year. Last spring they headed north for their distant nesting grounds in the Wood Buffalo Park area south of Great Slave Lake in Canada. Later this fall they will again return to their wintering grounds on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge along the Gulf of Mexico. Generally, the first whoopers arrive at Aransas the last half of October but on a few occasions they have reached there earlier. The earliest date of arrival since 1938 was October 4 in 1949.

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