

WHOOPING CRANE NUMBERS IN NORTH AMERICA

August 3, 2012

Wild Populations

Aransas -Wood Buffalo Population (AWBP)

The AWBP has been expanding numerically and geographically for some time. In 2011-12, the Service began to modify survey techniques on the winter grounds to provide a standardized, statistically significant estimate rather than attempting a complete count of every individual, which has become increasingly unrealistic. During the 2011-12 winter, surveys were further complicated by changes in personnel, early drought conditions which caused birds to utilize non-traditional areas, and inclement weather, hampering flights. The table below provides the best available data for the AWBP for this period. However, it should not be interpreted as a complete count – based on sighting reports, we suspect there were additional birds in non-traditional areas but we have no way of unconditionally reconciling those reports with survey information.

AWBP - Estimated Abundance Within the Surveyed Area								
	AHY	HY	Total	95% C.I.		White Pairs	Groups with Juveniles	Date of Estimate/ Report
				L.L.	U.L.			
Primary Sampling Frame	214	39	254	198	324	75	25	26,27,29-Jan-2012
AWBP - Reported Birds Assumed Outside of Surveyed Area								
Bayside, TX	3		3					12-Feb-12
Markham, TX	1		1					11-Feb-12
Granger Lake, Texas	6	3	9					11-Feb-12

	WC	Chicks	Total	Adult Pairs
Florida non-migratory (July 2012)	20	0	20	8
Louisiana non-migratory (July 2012)	15	0 ^A	15	0
Eastern migratory (July 2012)	101	3 ^B	104	22

^A 12-14 chicks are being raised at Patuxent WRC to be transported to and released at White Lake, Louisiana in December, 2012.

^B Three chicks hatched from wild nests in Wisconsin in 2012 are currently surviving. Thirteen other chicks are being raised and trained for Ultralight and DAR release during late fall/winter of 2012.

Captive Populations 2012

	WC	Chicks ^A	Total	Breeding Pairs
Patuxent WRC, Maryland	74	14	88	10
International Crane Foundation, WI	33	9	42	10
Devonian Wildl. Cons.Cent./Calgary	18		18	3
Species Survival Center, Louisiana	13	0	13	2
Calgary Zoo, Alberta	2	0	2	0
New Orleans Zoo, Louisiana	2	0	2	0
San Antonio Zoo, Texas	7	0	7	2
Homosassa Springs Wildl State Park	2	0	2	0
Lowry Park Zoo, Tampa, Florida	2	0	2	0
Jacksonville Zoo, Florida	2	0	2	0
Milwaukee County Zoo, Wisconsin	2	0	2	0
National Zoo	2	0	2	0
Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park, NC	1	0	1	0
Subtotal in Captivity	160	23	183	27

^A 12-14 chicks are being raised at Patuxent WRC to be transported to and released at White Lake, Louisiana in December, 2012.