

memorandum

DATE: January 14, 1983

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Endangered Species Coordinator
Pierre, South Dakota

SUBJECT: Cooperative Whooping Crane Tracking Project

TO: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D.C. 20240



Attached is a resume of whooping crane sightings reported to our office. Thank you for your cooperation in monitoring the migration of the whooping crane.

Maurice E. Anderson

Attachment

WGJ:slk

Distribution

Endangered Species, North Kansas City, MO
 Endangered Species, Austin, TX
 Endangered Species, Salt lake City, UT
 Jim Nelson, Bismarck, ND
 Endangered Species, Billings, MT
 Regional Director, Denver, CO
 Regional Director, Albuquerque, NM
 Law Enforcement District #5, Independence, MO
 Law Enforcement District #4, Denver, CO
 Cleveland Vaughn, SRA, Omaha, NE
 John Cooper, SRA, Pierre, SD
 David Kraft, SRA, Bismarck, ND
 Cornelis Vendel, SRA, Lenexa, KS
 Director, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD
 Rod Drewien, Soda Springs, ID
 Harvey Miller, Central Flyway Representative, Denver, CO
 Refuge Manager, Aransas NWR, Austwell, TX
 Refuge Manager, Medicine Lake NWR, Medicine Lake, MT
 Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD
 State Supervisor, Lincoln, NE
 Manager, Field Stations (39), SD, ND, KS, NE

Des Lacs Complex		Action
To	Routing	
	P.L.	
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COOPERATIVE WHOOPING CRANE TRACKING PROJECT
(September - November 1982)

Whooping crane migrations are monitored spring and fall of each year. Sighting reports are forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Office, Pierre, South Dakota, by private individuals, Audubon, other organizations, State and Federal Conservation Agencies, and Canadian Wildlife Service and their cooperators in Saskatchewan and adjacent provinces.

Cooperation throughout the whooping crane flyway continues to be excellent. The identification of color-marked birds is providing new information each migration. Since 1977, thirty-seven birds have been color-marked. Details about the color-marked birds can be found in the fall 1982 migration notice. We can't overemphasize the importance of looking closely for colored leg bands. In 1982, five young were color-marked and four of these were also radio-tagged. All five young, plus one unmarked young, arrived at Aransas.

On August 15, 1982, radio transmitters were placed on the legs of six chicks. Two radioed chicks were subsequently lost to wolves, leaving four chicks with transmitters to begin the migration. In addition, the transmitters were still functioning on two yearlings radio-tagged in 1981, for a total of six radio-tagged birds. One of the yearlings died during migration after apparently striking a power line in Texas.

Two family groups with radioed young were successfully monitored all the way to Aransas (see attached maps). Both families left the nesting grounds on or about October 8 and migrated to central Saskatchewan. They remained in Saskatchewan until October 28 when a weather front with strong northwest winds moved south out of Canada. Both families moved quickly through the states and arrived at Aransas on November 3 and 4. Sightings (stopover sites) resulting from the radio-tracking project are included in this report.

Whooping crane arrivals at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, a sighting report summary, a map of degree-block sighting locations, and maps showing the migration route of two radio-tagged young birds and their parents, are included with this narrative resume. Repeat sightings, of the same birds at the same location during a stop-over period, are not included when known to be repeats. Sightings classified as unconfirmed, based on whooping crane recovery plan criteria are not shown in the report; only Canadian sighting reports classified as "confirmed" are shown. All reports received are on record in the Pierre Office and are available upon request.

Arrivals at Aransas occurred from October 18 through December 15. A total of 72 whoopers (66 adults/subadults and 6 young) were reported at Aransas on December 15. Subsequently, one of the young birds which was radio-tracked to Aransas (B/W-R), was found dead. Therefore, the wintering population as of 1/10/83 was 71 birds (66 adults/subadults and 5 young). Seventy-three whoopers departed for the breeding grounds last spring. Six young were known to start the fall 1982 migration. Seven adult plumaged cranes, of the total anticipated, had not arrived at Aransas as could be determined as of 1/10/83.

Recorded observations of migrant whooping cranes started September 10 in Canada, and September 19 in the United States. The last sighting report was on November 4. Sightings were reported from Alberta, Canada (2), Saskatchewan, Canada (37), North Dakota (8), South Dakota (10), Nebraska (9), Kansas (3), Oklahoma (5), and Texas (4). A total of 78 confirmed and probable sightings were recorded. Thirty-six of these sightings were a direct result of the radio-tracking project.

Details of color-marked whoopers are as follows:

Year banded; color combinations*; USFWS band No.	Observation Date	Location
1981; W(radio)-R/W 629-01807 and 1977; R-R; 599-09805 and 1980; R-R/W; 629-01804	September 15-16, 1982	Alberta, Canada. Between Ft. McMurray and Air Weapons Range.
	September 16-17, 1982	30 miles northwest of North Battleford, Sask.
	September 17-October 11, 1982	Devil's Lake, near Watrous, Sask.
	October 11, 1982	Last Mountain Lake, Sask., near Latitude 51 degrees.
1981; W(radio)-R/W; 629-01807	October 16, 1982	Coryell County, Texas. 20 miles west of Waco, Texas. <u>Found Dead.</u>
1981; G(radio)-R/W; 629-01809	September 16, 1982	70 miles northeast of North Battleford, Sask.
	September 19-October 28, 1982	Divide County, North Dakota. Near Grenora. T160N, R103W.
1977; G-R; 599-09801	September 16, 1982	70 miles northeast of North Battleford, Sask.
	September 19, 1982	Divide County, North Dakota. 3 miles northwest of Grenora. T160N, R103W, Sec. 33.

Year banded; color combinations*; USFWS band No.	Observation Date	Location
1982; W/R-G(radio); 629-01811	October 15-16, 1982	Saskatchewan, Canada. Air Weapons Range near Primrose Lake.
	October 16-26, 1982	Indy Lake, 25 miles south of Saskatoon, Sask.
1982; G(radio)-W/R; 629-01812	October 20, 1982	10 miles north of Last Mountain Lake, Sask.
	October 27-28, 1982	Weyburn, Sask. area.
	October 28-29, 1982	30-40 miles southeast of Pierre, South Dakota.
1982; B/W-R(radio); 629-01815	October 21-22, 1982	34 miles northwest of Saskatoon, Sask.
	October 22-23, 1982	28 miles northwest of Saskatoon, Sask.
	October 23-24, 1982	5 miles southwest of Duval, Sask.
	October 24-27, 1982	18 Miles northeast of Regina, Sask.
	October 27-28, 1982	18 miles south of Weyburn, Sask.
	October 28-29, 1982	Stanley County, South Dakota. 10 miles south and 3 miles west of Ft. Pierre.
	October 29-30, 1982	Tripp County, South Dakota. 10 miles south of Colome.
	October 30-November 1, 1982	Holt County, Nebraska. 45 miles north of Burwell near Dora Lake.
	November 1-2, 1982	Greenwood County, Kansas. 2 miles north of Eureka.
	November 2-3, 1982.	Oklahoma-Texas border. Red River northwest of Gainesville, Texas.
About week of December 27, 1982		Died at Aransas NWR

Year banded; color combinations*; USFWS band No.	Observation Date	Location
1982: W-R(radio); 629-01810 and 1978: RWR-B; 599-09814	October 8-9, 1982.	Alberta, Canada. 50 miles southwest of Ft. Smith
	October 9-10, 1982	Alberta, Canada. Athabasca River. 68 miles north of Ft. McMurray.
	October 10-11, 1982	Saskatchewan, Canada. 16 miles northeast of Primrose Lake.
	October 11-14, 1982	Near Gaslyn, Sask. South end of Stony Lake.
	October 14-15, 1982	16 miles north of Davidson, Sask.
	October 15-16, 1982	25 mi. northeast of North Battleford, Sask.
	October 16-17, 1982	45 miles northeast of Lloydminster, Sask.
	October 17-18, 1982	18 miles northeast of Lloydminster, Sask. near North Sask. River.
	October 18-27, 1982	8 miles northwest of North Battleford, Sask.
	October 27-28, 1982	Near Radville, Sask.
	October 28-29, 1982	Mercer County, North Dakota. 10 miles northwest of Beulah.
	October 29-30, 1982	McPherson County, South Dakota. 6 miles northwest of Eureka, Hausauer Lake.
	October 30-31, 1982	Walworth County, South Dakota. 14 miles southwest of Eureka.
	October 31-November 1, 1982	Walworth County, South Dakota. South side of Swan Lake.
	November 1-2, 1982	Brown County, Nebraska. 12 miles south of Ainsworth.
	November 2-3, 1982	Caddo County, Oklahoma. Ft. Cobb Reservoir.

Year banded; color
combinations*; USFWS
band No.

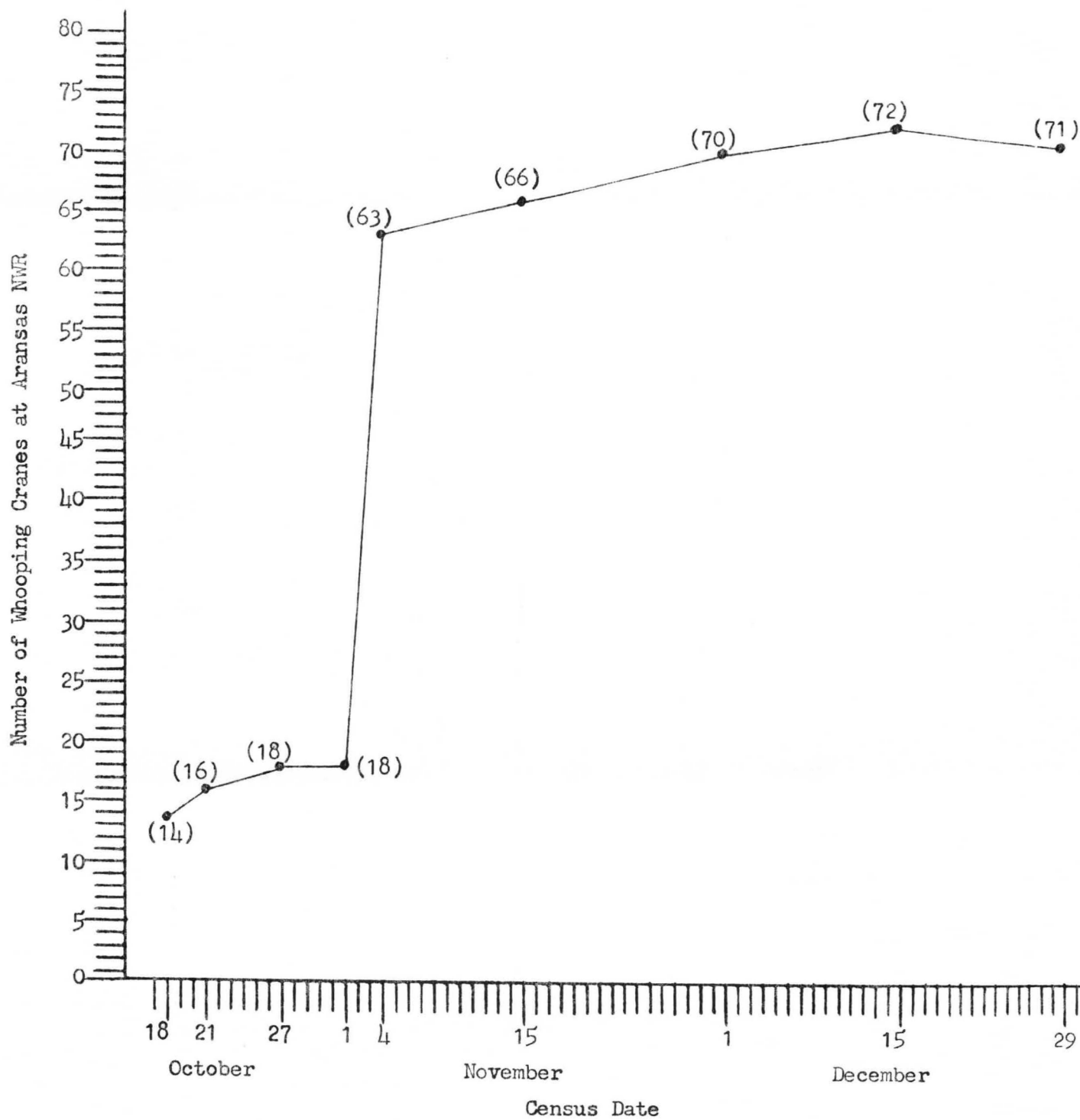
Observation
Date

Location

	November 3-4, 1982	Refugio County, Texas. 16 miles northeast of Refugio.
1977; R-W; 599-09803	September 20-24, 1982	Buffer Lake, Sask. 39-28-W2.
	October 29-30, 1982	Brown County, Nebraska. Niobrara River, 2 miles upstream from Norden Bridge.
	November 1, 1982	Blaine County, Oklahoma. 6 miles west and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of Watonga. T16N, R12W, Sec. 24.
R-? (incomplete)	November 17-25, 1982	Divide County, North Dakota. 6 miles north of Grenora. T160N, R103W, Secs. 12 & 1.
R/W-Brown (incomplete) and 1978; Nil-W; 599-09812 and R-R (incomplete, R-R confirmed at Ft. Smith until 9/15). and 1977: Nil-R; 599-09807 (unlikely, bird not seen since fall 1980).	September 11-25, 1982	Nine miles south and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Redfield, Sask. NE30-45-12-W3.
R/W-Nil (incomplete) and B/W-R/W (incomplete) and 1979; BWB-R/W; 599-09825	September 19-22, 1982	Seagram Lake, Sask. SE14-42-24-W3.
Wide R-Narrow R (incomplete) and 1978; Nil-RWR; 599-09811	September 20-24, 1982	Buffer Lake, Sask. 39-28-W2.

*The color of the left leg band appears first and the right leg band second.

Thanks, again, to the many cooperators. Use-site evaluations were continued this fall; your continued assistance is essential to the success of the evaluations. Please contact the Endangered Species Field Office in Pierre, South Dakota, if observation details are desired (Post Office Box 250, Zip 57501, Commercial telephone: 605/ 224-8692 or Federal Telecommunications System: 782-5226).



Chronological Arrivals at Aransas NWR, Texas; Fall, 1982

FALL 1982 WHOOPING CRANE TRACKING PLOT REPORTS*
(Confirmed and Probable Sightings Only)

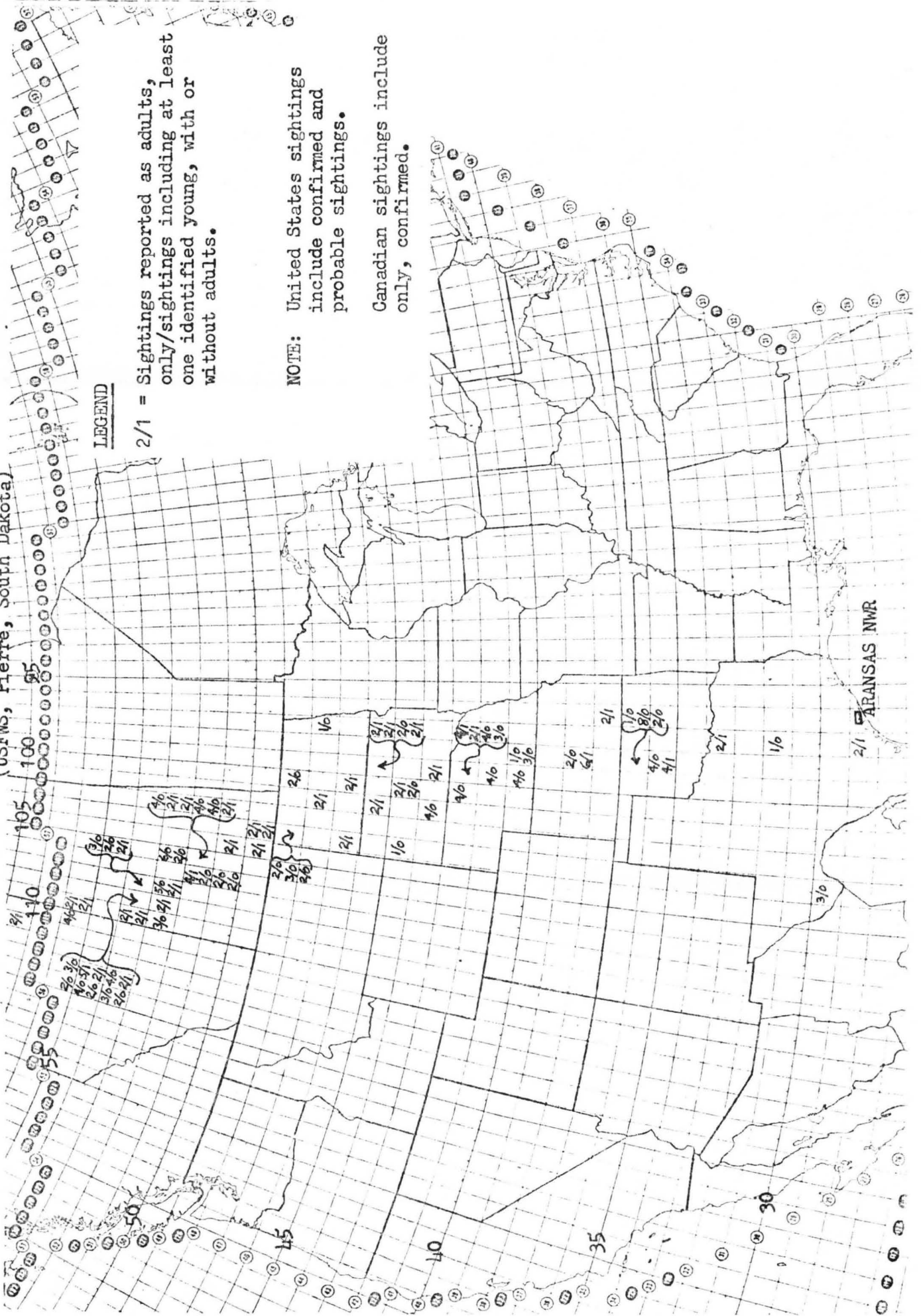
Date**	TX	OK	KS	NE	SD	ND	Sask., CA	Alb., CA
9-10							C2-0	
9-11							<u>C5</u> -0	
9-14							C2-0	
9-15								<u>C4</u> -0
9-16							C2-0; <u>C4</u> -0; <u>C4</u> -0	
9-17							C2-0; <u>C4</u> -0	
9-19						C2-0	C3-0	
9-20							<u>C6</u> -0	
9-22							C2-0	
9-27							C3-0; C2-0	
9-30							<u>C4</u> -0	
10-1						P1-0		
10-2							C2-0	
10-5							C2-0	
10-7					C1-0			
10-9								<u>C2</u> -1
10-10							<u>C2</u> -1	
10-11						C2-1	<u>C2</u> -1; C3-0; <u>C4</u> -0	
10-12			C2-0	C1-0				
10-13		C1-0				C3-0		
10-14							C5-1; <u>C2</u> -1	
10-15							C2-1; <u>C2</u> -1; <u>C2</u> -1	
10-16	<u>C1</u> -0				<u>C4</u> -0		<u>C4</u> -1; <u>C2</u> -1	
10-17						C2-0	<u>C2</u> -1	
10-18							<u>C2</u> -1	
10-20							<u>C2</u> -1	
10-21							C3-0; C2-1	
10-23	P3-0						<u>C2</u> -1	
10-24							<u>C2</u> -1	
10-27						C2-0	C2-1; <u>C2</u> -1; <u>C2</u> -1	
10-28					P2-0; C2-1; C2-1	<u>C2</u> -1		
10-29			C3-0; C3-0; <u>C4</u> -0; <u>C4</u> -0	C2-1; <u>C2</u> -1	<u>C2</u> -1			
10-30				C2-1	<u>C2</u> -1; C2-0			
10-31		C8-0	C6-1	<u>P4</u> -0; <u>P4</u> -0	<u>C2</u> -1			
11-1		<u>C4</u> -0	C2-1	<u>C4</u> -1				
11-2	C2-1	<u>C4</u> -1						
11-3	<u>C2</u> -1							
11-4		C2-0						
TOTAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS								
	4	5	3	9	10	8	37	2
GRAND TOTAL OBSERVATIONS = 78								

*Each report classified as confirmed (C) or probable (P) and represented by number of whooping cranes reported: adult-young, young reported color-marked are underlined once; birds color-marked during the period 1977-1981 are shown as adults and underlined twice. Sightings from radio-tracking project are included.

**First date of sighting used when bird(s) at location several days.

WHOOPIING CRANE TRACKING PROJECT, FALL 1982

(USFWS, Pierre, South Dakota)



Fall 1982 Migration Route of
Radio-Tagged Whooping Crane Color-Marked Blue/White-Red(radio)



Fall 1982 Migration Route of
Radio-Tagged Whooping Crane Color-Marked White-Red(radio)

