



Species at Risk Profile Series: Whooping Crane

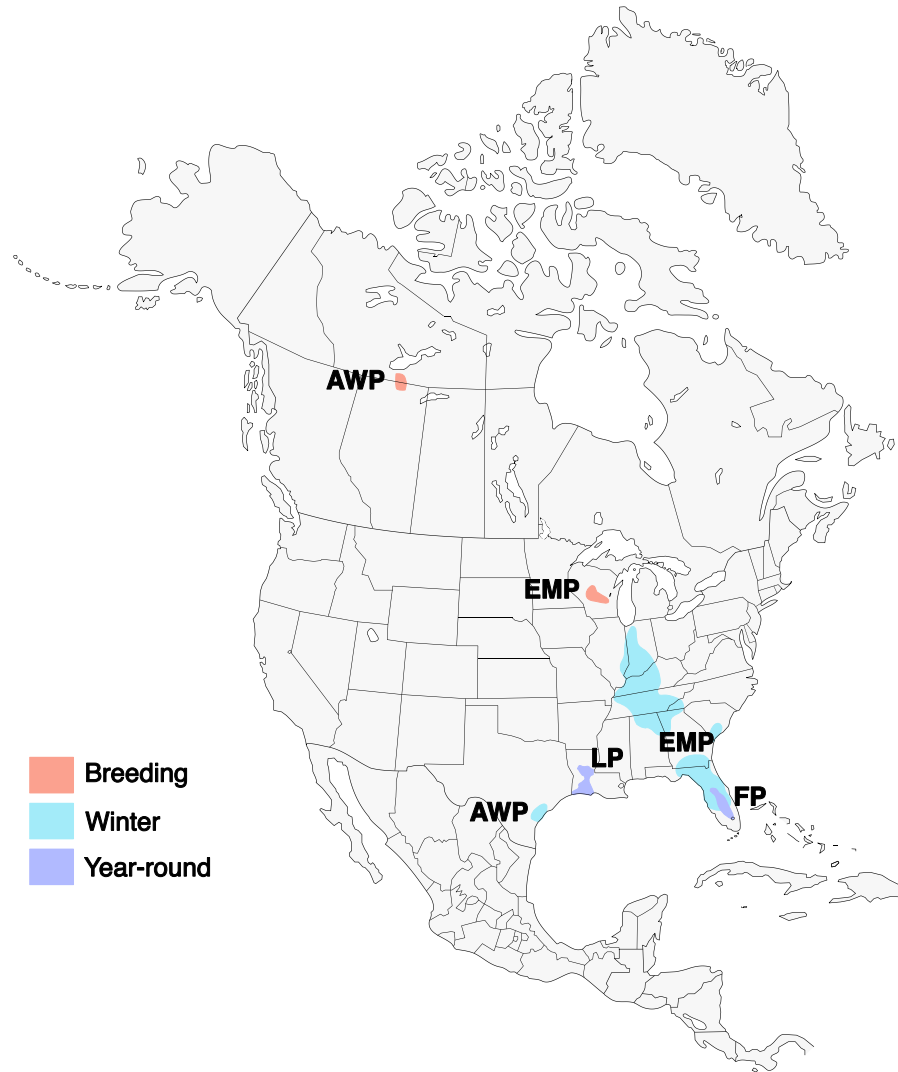


- Whooping Cranes are listed as Endangered in Canada.
- Look for a large, white bird with black wingtips and in flight, an outstretched neck and feet.
- At 1.5 m (60 in), they are the tallest birds in North America.
- In 1938 there were only 14 individuals remaining in the world.
- Nearly extinct, they were intensively managed and there are now over 400 individuals.
- They select small ponds in open areas with very soft bottoms for nesting.
- Two eggs are laid in bulrush nests, but only one chick survives over 90% of the time.
- Only 80% of adults breed each year, and 20% of those fail to raise a chick successfully.
- They spend their winters in salty marshes near the Gulf Coast.
- They live as long as 30 years, and sexual maturity is reached at 3-5 years.
- They eat invertebrates, fish, frogs, snakes, rodents, molluscs, birds, and even carrion.



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Conservation

- Whooping Cranes are considered a 'flagship' of North American conservation.
- Food limitations on the wintering grounds appear to limit productivity.
- Habitat loss has reduced the potential recovery size of the population.
- Strikes with power lines and guy wires are a substantial source of mortality.
- Individuals are occasionally accidentally or intentionally shot.
- The whole population winters in one location, making them vulnerable to extreme events, such as hurricanes or chemical spills.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Whooping Cranes [here](#).

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Range map credit: "Birds of North America" <https://birdsna.org> maintained by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY