

BRINGING BACK

The

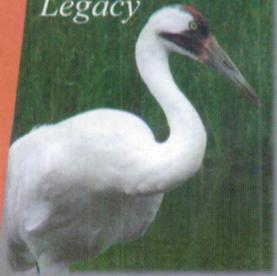
WHOOPING

CRANE



Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership...

An Endangered Legacy



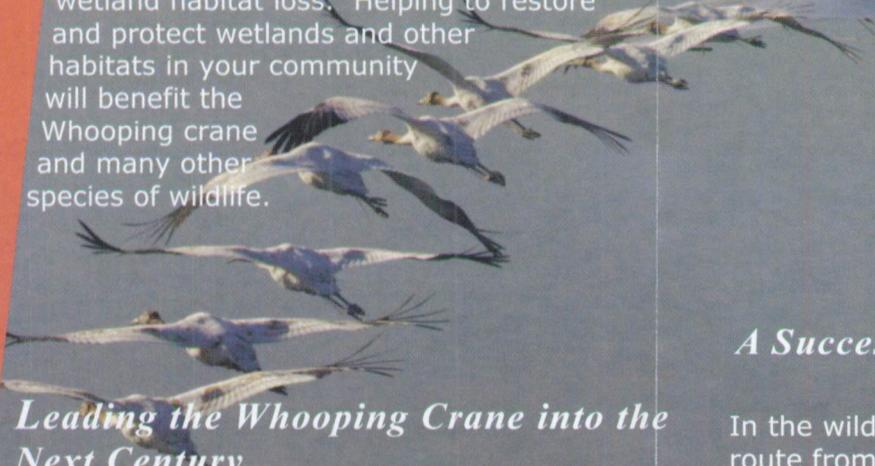
Whooping cranes are perhaps one of the best-known endangered species. Their numbers were reduced to only 15 individuals in 1941. They symbolize the struggle to maintain the vanishing creatures of our world.

The ultimate reintroduction goal is to restore a self-sustaining population, consisting of a minimum of twenty-five breeding pairs of Whooping cranes to eastern North America.

Based on the natural instinct known as "imprinting," project personnel use puppets resembling adult cranes and wear costumes designed to mask the human form at all times when near the young cranes.



Today, the species numbers fewer than 500, but they still face threats from power lines, oil and chemical spills, drought, disease, and wetland habitat loss. Helping to restore and protect wetlands and other habitats in your community will benefit the Whooping crane and many other species of wildlife.



Leading the Whooping Crane into the Next Century...

The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) is reintroducing a migratory flock of Whooping cranes into eastern North America--a portion of their former range. This flock is expected to nest in central Wisconsin and winter along Florida's west coast.

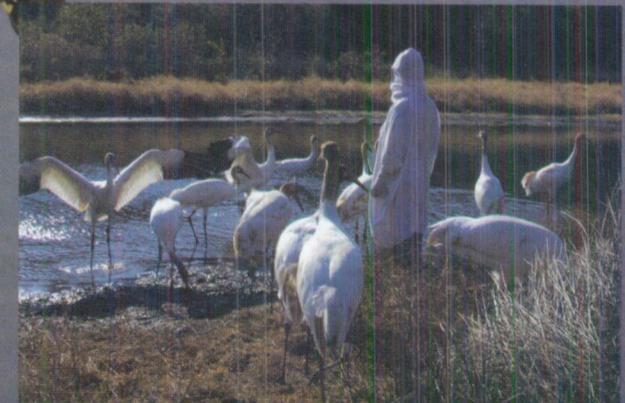
Each project year, new chicks are released at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin, and are then taught a migration route leading to the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

A Successful Start

In the wild, young cranes learn the migration route from their parents. Operation Migration, a WCEP founding partner, is standing in for the parent birds by leading young Whooping cranes, provided by captive breeding facilities, on their first southward migration with ultralight aircraft.

The new migration route from Wisconsin to Florida covers 1200 miles and passes through seven states. The youngsters learn the route during their first trip south in the fall, and are able to make the spring return journey on their own.

Preventing exposure to humans and human voices is critical to ensuring their success in the wild.



*H*ow You Can Help...

Seeing a Whooping crane in the wild is an amazing experience.

Do not attempt to feed them

Helping to ensure the wildness of these young birds is critical.

Do not call to them

We must do everything possible to prevent these cranes from becoming accustomed to humans.

Do not approach them

Please observe and enjoy them from a distance

Whether you want to show your support through a donation or by volunteering, there is a place for you in crane conservation.

Each of the nine founding members of WCEP is responsible for raising the funds necessary to carry out their portion of the project. Visit www.bringbackthecranes.org to find out how you can help return a migrating population of Whooping cranes to the Midwest and eastern regions of North America.

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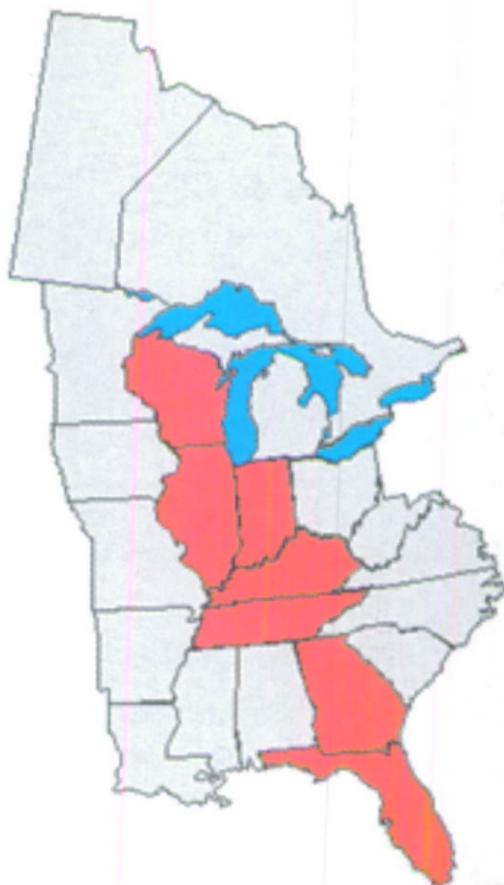
*Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership
founding members include:*

*International Crane Foundation
Operation Migration Inc.
International Whooping Crane Recovery Team
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S.G.S Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
U.S.G.S National Wildlife Health Center
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

Non-profit organizations and government agencies joining forces to safeguard the Whooping crane from extinction and to return a migrating population to eastern North America.

The seven-flyway states supporting this project are Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida.

Many other states, provinces, individuals and conservation groups have joined forces with and support WCEP by donating resources, funding and personnel.



For more information about this wildlife effort and the organizations working to safeguard the Whooping crane, please visit:

www.bringbackthecranes.org