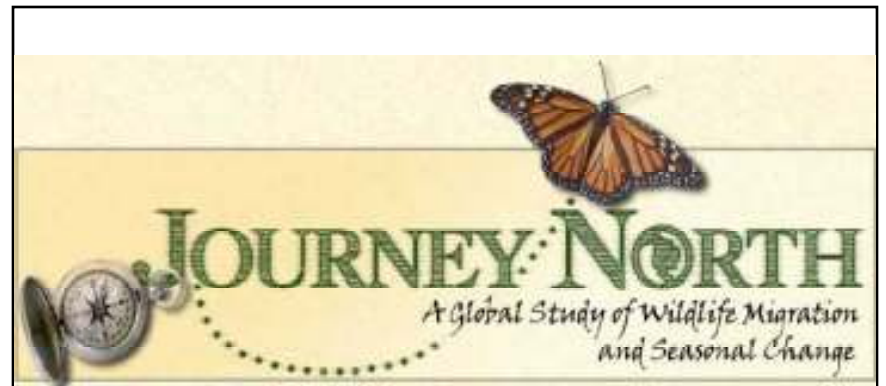




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Crane ID: Would You Know a Whooper?

by Jane Duden

Crane kids are cute, but you're much more likely to see adults!



Photo © USGS

Could you pick a Whooping Crane out of a crowd? If you were close enough, you might hear the unison call, the guard call, or the soft brood call to babies. But it's hard to get *that* close. You might have an easier time *spotting* a Whooping Crane.

Read this booklet to learn how to identify an adult whooper. Then take our online quiz to test your knowledge!

By the time a Whooping crane is a year old, its head has bright red patches and black crescents. Its bill is long and sharp.



Photo © Sara Zimorski, ICF

Adults' bodies are bright white, but they have coal black wing tips.



Photo © Joan Garland, WCEP

Young Whooping Cranes have rust-colored heads and spots on their bodies.



Photo © WCEP

Whoopers fly with their necks and skinny legs outstretched.



Photo © Glenn Olsen, Patuxent WRC

They have a wing span of 7 or 8 feet. At 5 feet tall, Whooping Cranes are the tallest birds in North America!



Photo © Heather Ray

Whoopers have a distinctive wingbeat when they fly: a slow downward stroke and a quick upward motion.



Photo © Operation Migration

Whooping cranes migrate as families or in small groups, not in large "v-formation" flocks. Here are two parents and a chick.



Photo © Richard Urbanek, USFWS, ICF



This map shows places where you are most likely to see Whooping Cranes in the wild. It depicts the migration routes of the Western (wild) and Eastern (reintroduced) flocks.

ONLINE QUIZ!

Have you figured out how to identify a whooper? Test your knowledge!

Go to:

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/crane/sl/4/6.html>

