

# **Appendix E**

## **Whooping Crane Observation Data on the Central Platte River Valley**

## Appendix E. Confirmed Sightings of Whooping Cranes in the Platte River Valley, 1940-Spring 2006

Group ID	No. Cranes	Year	Confirmed River Use	Dates of Use <sup>1</sup>	Location <sup>2</sup>	Bridge Segment <sup>3</sup>	River Miles <sup>4</sup>	Comment	
<b>Observed within the central Platte River Study Area</b>									
1	42A-1	3	1942	Y	4/5	3 E Lexington Br	W	--	
2	43A-1	1	1943	Y	4/4	4 W Kearney Br	9	--	
3	50A-1	1	1950		5/4	SE of Overton	11	NA	
4	59B-2	2	1959		10/26	6 S 5 E of Overton	11	NA	
5	66B-2	5	1966	Y	10/21-22	6 NE of Philips	1	158	
6	74B-5	2	1974	Y	10/31 - 11/1	2 E Minden (#10) Br	7	206	
7	75A-6	7	1975	Y	4/18-19	1/2 E Odessa Br	--	223.5	Part of 9 birds hazed from Funk basin
8	75A-7	5	1975	Y	4/19-20	1/2 E Odessa Br	9	223.5	
9	77A-4	1	1977	Y	3/29	2 E Minden (#10) Br	7	206	
10	80A-11	2	1980	Y	4/16-18	Audubon Sanctuary	6,7	207	Assumed same birds as 80A-12
11	80A-12	2	1980	Y	4/18	1 E Minden/I-80 Interchange	7	--	
12	83B-21	5	1983	Y	10/27-28	6 SE of Shelton	5	191.1	
13	83B-22	3	1983		10/28	7 SE of Shelton	5	NA	Joined group 83B-21
14	85A-6	4	1985		4/8	6 S 2W of Shelton	6	NA	Early AM; probable river use
15	85B-18	3	1985	Y	10/20-21	1 1/2 E Minden (#10) Br	7	206.4	
16	86B-58	3	1986	Y	11/4-5	2 E Kearney Br	8	213	Assumed same birds as 86B-88
17	86B-88	3	1986		11/7	1 1/2 S 1 E of Hwy 44/I-80 Interchange	8	NA	
18	87A-1	1	1987	Y	3/17 - 4/19	W of Gibbon Br (Lowell area)	6,7	202.9 - 206.4	
19	87A-13	2	1987		4/16	Mormon Is. Crane Meadows	3	NA	Brief stop during day's migration
21	87B-2	2	1987	Y	10/21-22	1 1/4 E Gibbon Br	6	201.2	
22	88A-1	2	1988	Y	3/24-26	3/4 W Minden (#10) Br	8	208.6, 209.6	Group moved to Odessa (88A-2)
23	88A-2	2	1988	Y	3/26 - 4/7	3 W Odessa Br	9,10	226.3 - 227.6	see 88A-1
24	88A-3	1	1988	Y	4/1-11	3 W Wood River Br	5	189.5 - 189.8	
25	88A-4	1	1988	Y	4/3-4	1 W Alda Br	4	183	Possibly same bird as 88A-3
26	89A-1	1	1989	Y	3/24 - 4/14	2 1/2 W Wood River Br	5	188-191.1	
27	89A-13	1	1989	Y	4/16-17	3 W Minden (#10) Br	8	211	
28	89B-5	4	1989	Y	10/13-14	2 1/2 W Wood River Br	5		
29	89B-18	2	1989	Y	11/4	2 E Alda Br	3-4	180	2nd site 2 W. Alda Br.
30	90A-4	3	1990	Y	4/14-15	1/2 W Minden (#10) Br	7	207.5	
31	90B-15	3	1990	Y	10/26-27	2 1/4 E Shelton Br	5	193.5	Originally 2 1/2 W. Wood River
32	92A-3	2	1992	Y	4/10	1/2 E Gibbon Br	6	201.5	Joined 92A-4 to roost

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33	92A-4	4	1992	Y	4/10-11	2 W Gibbon Br	7	204.3	Includes 92A-3 birds
34	92A-5	6	1992	Y	4/10-11	1/4 E Overton Br	11	239.0	
35	92A-10	5	1992	Y	4/14	2 1/2 W Gibbon Br	7	204.7	Probably roosted 13/14
36	93A-2	5	1993	Y	4/9-10	1 1/2 W Gibbon Br	7	206.5	
37	93A-3	2	1993	Y	4/9-10	E of Alda Br	3	180.2	
38	93A-4	2	1993	Y	4/9-10	1 W Wood River Br	5	188.1	
39	93B-16	1	1993		10/23	1 S, 1 E Elm Creek	10	NA	
40	94A-1	6	1994		4/4	3.5 S Of Grand Island	2	NA	Corn stubble, mid-late morning
41	94A-3	2	1994	Y	4/4	1 E Gibbon Br	6		
42	94A-4	2	1994	Y	4/4-6	2.5 E of Minden Br	7	205.6, 206.6	2nd site 1.25 E. of Minden Br.
43	94A-8	2	1994		4/5	1 N, 1 W Hwy 10/I-80 Exit	8		
44	94A-14	1	1994	Y	4/14	1 downstream I-80 Br	2	171.5	
45	94A-15	1	1994	Y	5/14	1.5 upstream Gibbon Br	7	203.8	Rowe Sanctuary
46	95A-8	2	1995	Y	4/14	5 S, 1 W Gibbon	7	203.1	
47	95A-21	1	1995	Y	5/8-14	1/2 N, 5 W Doniphan	3	180.6	
48	95B-5	5	1995	Y	10/25	2 3/4 E Hwy 10 Br	7	205.25	
49	96A-3	1	1996		3/30	2 E Elm Creek	10	NA	
50	96A-9	3	1996		4/7-9	3 1/2 S 1 1/2 Odessa	9		
51	96A-10	2	1996	Y	4/10	2.5 upstream Wood R Br	5	191.1	
52	96A-11	3	1996	Y	4/11	0.5 upstream Wood R Br	4,5	187.8	
53	96A-21	1	1996		4/20	2 N, 1 W Doniphan	3	NA	wet meadow, mid-day
54	96A-22	3	1996	Y	4/20-21	1 W, 2 N Doniphan	3	176.6	
55	96A-31	2	1996	Y	5/8-13	2 S, 2 E Elm Creek	10	228.6	
56	97A-1	1	1997	Y	3/9	4.5 S, 1.75 W Gibbon	7	203.9	
57	97A-2	1	1997	Y	3/10 - 4/17	3 W Doniphan	3,4	183.1, 180.7, 178.4	
58	97A-3	1	1997	Y	3/19 - 4/7	4.5 S, 4 W Gibbon	7	205.7, 203.0, 204.0	
59	97A-6	1	1996		4/14	6 S Gibbon	7	NA	
60	97A-7	2	1997	Y	4/14-16	2 S Gibbon	7	203.4	
61	97A-17	3	1997	Y	4/15-17	5 S, 2 W Gibbon	6,7	204.1	
62	97A-18	1	1997		4/16-19	4 1/2 S 1 W Overton	11,12		
63	98A-1	1	1998	Y	2/15 - 3/25	3 W Doniphan	3,4	NA	
64	98A-3	1	1998	Y	3/23 - 4/9	5.5 N, 4 E Doniphan	2	NA	
65	98A-4	1	1998		3/27-28	4 S I-80 Alda Interchange	3,4	NA	likely roost on river
66	98A-6	1	1998	Y	3/30	1.25 N, 1 3/4 W Doniphan	3	NA	Adult with sandhills

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67	98A-7	1	1998		4/3	2 N, 3 E I-80 Alda Exit	3	NA	5:00 PM, feeding with sandhills
68	98A-16	2	1998		4/14	6.5 S, 2.5 W Wood River	5	NA	8 AM - 11:15, flooded pasture
69	98B-8	3	1998	Y	10/22 – 11/9	1.25 E, Hwy 10 Br	7	204, 207.6	Rowe Sanctuary
70	99A-1	1	1999	Y	3/4-23	3 S, E Gibbon	2,3,4,6		
71	99A-3	1	1999		3/23	2 S, 2 W Wood River	5	NA	Assumed same birds as 99A-2
72	99A-4	1	1999		3/21	1 ¾ S, 2 W Shelton	6		
73	99A-7	2	1999		4/3	2 ½ S, 1 ½ E Overton/I-80	11	NA	
74	00A-2	1	2000	Y	3/2-4/4	2.5 W Doniphan	3		
75	00A-4	1	2000	Y	3/8-16	2.5 W Doniphan	3		
76	00B-30	2	2000	Y	11/3	1.5 W Gibbon Br	7		
77	01A-3	1	2001	Y	3/23-4/8	Hwy 10 Br to Gibbon Br, and Shelton Br to Wood River Br	5,7		
78	01A-07	3	2001		4/11	1.5 S 2 E Gibbon rd/I-80 interchange	6		
79	01B-13	1	2001	Y	10/23	Platte R, 3 E (dwnst) Hwy 10 bridge	7		
80	01B-37	3	2001	Y	11/4	Platte R, 2.75 E (dwnst Hwy 10)	7		
81	02A-1	1	2001	Y	3/19-4/13	2 S 3 W Wood R road /I-80 interchange	5		
82	02B-1	1	2002	Y	10/13-14	3 W Doniphan; Platte R west of Alda Bridge	3,5		
83	02B-3	1	2002	Y	10/14	1 W of Rowe Sanctuary office	7		
84	02B-40	8	2002	Y	11/1-10	1.5 S 0.75 W Doniphan	3		
85	02B-41	2	2002	Y	11/1-3	Near Odessa bridge and upst & dwnst of Kearney bridge	9		
86	02B-42	3	2002	Y	11/1-10	Upst and Dwnst Alda bridge	3,4		
87	02B-43	1	2002	Y	11/5-10	5 S 3 W Chapman	1		
88	03A-3	2	2003	Y	4/3-4	0.25 E Minden Bridge	7		
89	03A-6	2	2003	Y	4/8	2.6 E Elm Creek Bridge	10		
90	03B-7	1	2003	Y	10/15	1.75 W Rowe Office	7		Feeding with sandhills in grazed pasture
91	03B-29	2	2003	Y	11/2-3	N.1.5 W, 2.5 N of N. Platte	NA		Roosted on North Platte
92	04A-01	1	2004	Y	3/8	5 S Grand Island	2		
93	04A-22	1	2004	Y	4/4	0.75 W Minden Bdge	8		
94	04B-55	6	2004	Y	11/5-6	4 E Grand Island	1		

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95	05A-02	1	2005	Y	3/28-4/2	1.5 E Hwy 34 Br	1-2		
96	05A-05	2	2005	Y	4/7	2 W Odessa Br	10		
97	05B-26	1	2005	Y	11/3	1.5 W Shelton Bridge	6		
98	06A-01	1	2006	Y	3/11-4/1	5 S, 1.5 E of Gibbon (1 <sup>st</sup> seen)	3-4		Roosted near Alda bridge 3/14-4/1
99	06A-02	1	2006	Y	3/24-4/9	0.5 W of Alda bridge	3-4		Roosted near Alda bridge 3/24-4/9
100	06A-	2	2006	Y	3/30-4/1	2.5 E of Overton bridge	11		
101	06A-	3	2006	Y	4/1-4/4	1.5 E of Elm Creek bridge	10		
<b>Observations of cranes flying within the central Platte River Study Area (ground stopovers not confirmed)</b>									
1	80A-14	7	1980	NA	4/19	Interstate 80/#44	8-9	NA	
2	84B-60	2	1984	NA	10/28	1 E Minden (#10) Br	8-7	NA	
3	85B-11	4	1985	NA	10/12	SE Grand Is. Camp Augustine	3	NA	
4	90B-13	3	1990	NA	10/23	Gibbon Br	6-7	NA	
5	90B-17	1	1990	NA	11/1	1/2 W. Minden (#10) Br.	8	NA	
6	95B-16	1	1995	NA	11/3	Over Kearney	9	NA	
7	96B-25	1	1996	NA	11/1	5 S, 2 W Gibbon	7	NA	Flying over Rowe Sanctuary, mid AM
8	96B-30	2	1996	NA	11/3	I-80 & Hwy 44 Jct	9	NA	Flying early afternoon
9	98B-25	1	1998	NA	11/11	S of Wood River I-80 exit	5	187	Flying over river at 11:30 AM
10	99A-2	1	1999	NA	3/21	3 S, 2 W Gibbon	7	NA	Assumed same birds as 99A-3
11	99A-9	2	1999	NA	4/6	1 E Gibbon	6	NA	
12	99B-26	3	1999	NA	10/26	4 ½ W Overton/I-80 Exit	12	NA	
13	02B-2	1	2002	NA	10/13	2.5 W Wood R bridge	5	NA	Flew toward river at dark, but not seen on the river
14	03B-41	1	2003	NA	11/5	8 S Alda, 1 S Platte R.	3	NA	With 50 sandhills

Source: NGPC 1993; FWS - Grand Island, unpublished date.

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> When initial sighting occurred in early morning, arrival was assumed to be the previous day.

<sup>2</sup> Only 3 Platte Valley sightings west of Lexington.

<sup>3</sup> Locations are distance in miles from identified landmark.

<sup>4</sup> COE River miles

NA = not available

**APPENDIX E. PROBABLE SIGHTINGS OF WHOOPING CRANES IN THE PLATTE RIVER VALLEY, 1980-FALL 2005**

Group ID	No. Cranes	Year	River Use	Dates of Use <sup>1</sup>	Location <sup>2</sup>	Bridge Segment <sup>3</sup>	River Miles <sup>4</sup>	Comment
<b>Observations in the central Platte River Study Area</b>								
1	80A-3	2		4/18	1 S. Odessa	9	--	Assumed same as 80A-1, 80A-2
2	84A-15	2		4/11	1 E, 1 ½ S Kearney Br	9	--	
3	85A-4	4	Y	4/3	Alda Br	3		South Channel Platte
4	85B-61	2	Y	4/17	1 S, 2 E Wood River I-80 Exit	4	--	Uridil Property
5	86B-82	4	Y	11/11	1/8 E Gibbon Br	6	--	
6	88A-25	2		3/13	2 ½ - 3 W Alda Rd	4		
7	88A-26	2		3/21	2 ½ E Hwy 10 Br	7		
8	88A-27	3		4/1	¾ W Wood River, S I-80	5		
9	90A-15	4		4/4	4 ½ W Kearney Br	9		
10	90A-18	3		4/30	3 E Hwy 44, Ft. Kearny Rd	8		
11	90A-21	1		4/30	3 E Hwy 10 Br	7		
12	95A-46	1		5/16	2 S Alda Br	3		
13	00A-22	7		4/8 or 4/9	2 W Platte/Alda Rd Intersection	4		
14	01A-18	1		3/21	1.5 S Hwy 34 Br, SE of G.I.	2		
15	04A-31	1	Y	4/5	2.5 W Wood River Br., Uridil	5		
16	04A-35	1		4/3	1 N Ft. Kearny Hike Bike Trail	8		Possibly same as 04A-22
<b>Observations of cranes flying within the central Platte River Study Area (stopovers on ground not observed)</b>								
1	84B-37	3	NA	10/28	3 S, 1 ¼ E Overton	11	--	
2	84B-45	2	NA	10/28	S. Wood River	5	--	
3	86B-95	3	NA	11/3	E Kearney Br	9	223.5	
4	87A-30	5	NA	4/10	1 W Doniphan	3		
5	87B-77	2	NA	10/27	Grand Island	2		With sandhill cranes
6	91A-24	2	NA	4/11	1 ½ E Hwy 10 Br	7		
7	92A-27	8	NA	4/13	4 ½ S, 5 E Kearney	8		
8	92B-35	8	NA	11/20	4 W Kearney	9		
9	93B-37	2	NA	10/23	Near Ft. Kearny	8		
10	93B-39	3	NA	10/21	2 ½ W Wood River Br	5		
11	95B-24	7	NA	10/24	Near Overton / I-80	11		
12	95B-26	8	NA	11/3	Near Kearney Br	8		
13	99B-58	3	NA	10/29	W Grand Island	2		
14	99B-59	3	NA	11/2	SW Kearney	9		
15	01A-27	2	NA	4/12	Dawson Co., over Platte R. 1 E of Overton Br	11		
16	01A-28	2	NA	4/13	Phelps Co., over Platte R. 1 S 1	11		

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	Group ID	No. Cranes	Year	River Use	Dates of Use <sup>1</sup>	Location <sup>2</sup>	Bridge Segment <sup>3</sup>	River Miles <sup>4</sup>	Comment
17	02B-64	1	2002	NA	10/13	W of Elm Ck Br 1 E Overton Br	11		
18	02B-65	1	2002	NA	10/13	1 E Alda bridge near Crane Trust Office	3		
19	02B-66	2	2002	NA	10/14	0.25-0.50 W Alda Br	4		
20	02B-83	2	2002	NA	11/2	E of Shelton Br over Platte R.	5		

Source: FWS - Grand Island, unpublished date.

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> When initial sighting occurred in early morning, arrival was assumed to be the previous day.

<sup>2</sup> Only 2 Platte Valley sightings west of Lexington.

<sup>3</sup> Locations are distance in miles from identified landmark.

<sup>4</sup> COE River miles

NA = not available