

# FIELD GUIDE TO THE CRANES OF NORTH AMERICA

Illustrated by Dr. John David Tobe

## WHOOPING CRANE (*Grus americana*) adult **USFWS Endangered**



Adult whooping crane, height: 4.9 feet (1.5 meters) tall.

Adults have black primaries (outermost flight feathers) White overall with a black and red pattern on face.

## WHOOPING CRANE juvenile



Juvenile whooping crane, approximately same height as adult with reddish-brown head and neck with scattered red-brown pattern on back and on wings. Juveniles do not have the red or black pattern on their face.

## SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis*) adult



Adult whooping crane, wingspan: 7.5 feet (2.3 meters) wide. Slow flight, legs extend beyond the short tail.



Adults are gray overall with bright red skin patch above eye.

Sometimes adults may appear brown because of staining.

Adult sandhill crane, height: 2.5-3.9 feet (0.8-1.2 meters) tall.



Juvenile sandhill crane, same height as adult with reddish-brown head and neck with scattered red-brown mottling on back and on wings.

Note: FWC has listed the non-migratory Sandhill population in Florida as **Threatened**.

Adult sandhill crane, wingspan: 5-6 feet (1.2-1.3 meters) wide.



Juvenile whooping crane.

Cranes are large birds with long necks, long, straight bills and thin dark grey legs. Tail feathers are ruffled and droop. Cranes fly with extended neck and legs held straight back. They fly in V-shaped formations and will soar on thermals during migration. Call is loud and trumpeting.



Note: black primary feathers