



Ernie Kuyt taking egg from Whooping Crane nest in Wood Buffalo National Park, N.W.T.  
Note habitat in background.

Elwood Bizeau

## WHOOPING CRANES AND THEIR FOSTER PARENTS

In 1975 Canada and the United States embarked on a new experiment to bring back the Whooping Crane. One egg was taken from two-egg clutches in Wood Buffalo Park, flown to Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho, and substituted for the eggs of Greater Sandhill Cranes whose breeding history was known from several years of study. The following photographs, showing foster whoopers in their new setting, were kindly supplied by Rod Drewien, Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, who is in charge of the project.





Foster parent Greater Sandhill Crane on nest at Grays Lake NWR, Idaho. Bird is near center of foreground with head and neck on ground. Note habitat in background.

R. C. Drewien



74-day old flightless Whooping Crane attacking researcher prior to being captured for banding and color-marking. Grays Lake NWR, Idaho.

R. C. Drewien.





Young Whooping Crane flying with foster parent Sandhill Cranes, Bosque del Apache NWR, New Mexico. December, 1975. R C. Drewien



7-1/2 month old Whooping Crane with foster parent Sandhill Cranes in a corn field, Ber-nando, New Mexico. Note standard aluminum legband and coloured legband. January, 1976. R. C. Drewien.



# HISTORY OF THE TEXAS-LOUISIANA CAPTIVE WHOOPING CRANE FLOCK

From Whooping Cranes —  
the Captive Flock  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
Service, RF-23518-15.  
Feb. 1976.

JOSEPHINE  
Captured 1941  
Louisiana  
Held Audubon Park Zoo, La.  
(New Orleans)

PETE  
Captured May 1936  
Brady, Nebraska  
Held  
Gothenburg Sanctuary, Nebraska  
Transferred - St. Louis Mo. 1946

JOSEPHINE sent to  
New Orleans  
December 1947

PETE and JOSEPHINE  
Sent to San Antonio, Texas  
and then to the Aransas Refuge  
1948

PETE and JOSEPHINE  
April 1949  
Nesting unsuccessful  
PETE Died July 1949

CRIP  
Captured on Aransas  
Refuge October 1949  
Put with JOSEPHINE

ONE chick 1950 — RUSTY Died at 4 days

April 1951  
Nesting unsuccessful

Both birds moved to  
New Orleans December 1951

1952, 1953, and 1954  
No attempt to nest

May 1955  
Nesting unsuccessful

May 1956  
ONE chick hatched — Died July 1956

June 1956  
ONE chick hatched — Died at 2 days

May 1957  
TWO chicks — GEORGE — GEORGETTE

May 1958  
DEEJEE

