



The cover features a close-up of an adult whooping crane and a wider view of wild whooping cranes on their wintering grounds in Aransas, Texas.

With an adult height of 4–5 feet, the whooping crane is North America's tallest native bird. The cranes, with white bodies, black wing tips, and red-capped heads on long, elegant necks, are beautiful. The whooping crane is also one of the continent's most famous endangered species, with fewer than thirty birds remaining before people rallied to save it. Even so, after more than fifty years of intensive scientific effort on the cranes' behalf, it is still unclear whether whoopers will survive in the wild.

For the rest of the story, please turn to page iii.

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