



Friends of the Louisiana Whooping Cranes

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
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Since You Last Read... An Update on the Louisiana Whooping Cranes

Hello and a happy summer to everyone. Hope this newsletter finds you well, and you are enjoying reading this in a nice and cool shady spot!

Our happiness continues regarding the monumental event of the first two wild hatched Louisiana whooping crane chicks in 77 years. LW1 and 2-16 were hatched on April 11 and 13 to their parents, L6-12 and 8-13. Both chicks were visible on May 11, however by May 13, only one chick could be confirmed. Raising two chicks is a difficult job and, as many of you are aware, it is not uncommon for only one of two chicks to survive. We were certainly disappointed by the loss of one of the chicks. However, we are very proud of these first time parents as they continue to this day to rear LW1-16. He/she, as the saying goes, has shot up like a weed and has grown up to an inch per day. At that growth rate, whooping crane chicks are comparable in size to their parents and fledge/take flight at approximately three months of age. LW1-16 is very close to that age and we are eagerly anticipating that event which should take place anytime now. With that being said, the proud father is currently going through molt and is flightless. This will likely dictate the family's locale and the group should remain together until all are able to take to the air together. Positive thoughts for the group as a whole as being flightless during molt is less than ideal, however certainly part of whooping crane physiology. We will continue to update you on the family status through special email announcements as the family thrives on the Louisiana landscape.

The 2016 nesting season was quite active with 5 out of the 10 formed pairs laying eggs.

Below is a summary of 2016 nesting activity:

Female	Male	Nest #	Egg info	Parish
L3-11	L1-13	1	dead embryo (2-2)	Allen
L3-11	L1-13	2	dead embryo (1); unk (1)	Allen
L7-11	L8-11	1	infertile (2-2)	Avoyelles
L7-11	L8-11	2	infertile (1); unk (1)	Avoyelles
L6-12	L8-13	1	hatch (2-2)	Jefferson Davis
L13-11	L2-11	1	dead embryo	Allen
L13-11	L2-11	2	infertile (1); unk (1)	Allen
L11-11	L10-11	1	unk	Jefferson Davis
L11-11	L10-11	2	infertile	Jefferson Davis

LW1-16 Chick Album



April 14, 2016 3 Days Old



April 29, 2016 ~ 3 Weeks Old



May 27, 2016 ~ 6 Weeks Old



June 13, 2016 ~ 9 Weeks Old



June 28, 2016 ~11 Weeks Old

\$9,000 Reward Offered for Information on Shooting of Whooping Cranes in Acadia Parish

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents are looking for leads regarding two whooping cranes that were shot to death in Acadia Parish. The cranes were found just south of Rayne on the morning of May 21, 2016. The two cranes killed were male L3-15 and female L5-15. After their bodies were recovered, the cranes were sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service forensics lab in order to gather any evidence which may lie within the carcasses.

Up to \$9,000 is being offered by various groups for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the illegal killing of these whooping cranes. LDWF's Operation Game Thief program and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation are each offering a reward of up to \$1,000; The Humane Society of the United States and The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust are offering up to \$5,000. LDWF also received a total of \$2,000 from private donations.

Anyone with information regarding these illegal killings should call the Louisiana Operation Game Thief hotline at 1-800-442-2511 or use LDWF's tip411 program. To use the tip411 program, residents can text LADWF and their tip to 847411 or download the "LADWF Tips" app. The hotline and the tip411 are monitored 24 hours a day. Upon request, informants can remain anonymous.



Give A Whoop Workshop For Educators August 3, 2016 at Black Bayou National Wildlife Refuge

The last scheduled workshop for 2016 will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 3, at Black Bayou National Wildlife Refuge located north of Monroe, LA. We encourage those involved in both formal and non-formal education to attend this free workshop. Attendees will receive breakfast, lunch, a binder filled with GLE lessons, a life-sized whooping crane poster and a replica egg. Interested individuals may contact Carrie Salyers at csalyers@wlf.la.gov or 337-262-2080 for more information regarding this opportunity. Hope to see you there!

March 2016-June 2016 Friends of the Cranes

A special thanks to our monetary donors, without whom this project would not be possible. The following individuals have made donations to support the reintroduction of whooping cranes to southwest Louisiana:

- **Dr. and Mrs. J King White**
- **Gary and Denise Kelley in memory of Michael Hoke**
- **James and Caroline Theus**
- **Claire Timm's 3rd grade class at Maclay School, Tallahassee, FL.**
- **Jim Grice**
- **Ellen Reintjes and Don Tatzin**



Approximately 1/3 of the Louisiana whooping crane project budget is comprised of private donations; all donations are sincerely appreciated. If you or someone you know would like to make a donation in support of the cranes, please contact Kell McInnis at 225-765-5100, kmcinnis@wlf.la.gov, or visit the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation's website directly at <http://lawff.org/>. Donations can also be mailed directly to the Foundation at P.O. Box 80378 Baton Rouge, LA 70898-0378.

Louisiana Whooping Crane Survival as of July 2016:

A total of 75 birds have been released in Louisiana since the project began in 2010. Out of those 75 birds, a total of 38 adult individuals are alive for a survivorship of 51percent. Beginning with the 2011 cohort, birds received for the Louisiana project were younger in age compared to those received in the 2010 cohort. LDWF strongly believes that has helped increase the survival percentage of the individual cohorts. Reported below are the survival rates for the 2011-2015 cohorts:

<u>Cohort Year:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Current Survival:	9/16= 56%	9/14= 64%	6/10=60%	7/14=50%	7/11=64%

5 Year Average:

38/65=58%

This newsletter is compiled by Carrie Salyers, Education Outreach Coordinator for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries