

## GENERAL NOTES

**Additional Data on the Food of the Whooping Crane.**—Until recently no analysis of stomach contents of *Grus americana* has been available, and up to this time none is recorded in the literature. When my monograph on this rare species was in preparation (The Whooping Crane, Research Report No. 3, National Audubon Society, 1952), it was necessary to draw conclusions with regard to feeding habits from examination of droppings, direct observation of feeding birds, and inspection of feeding areas. Although 45 food items are listed from these sources, it is considered that only seven of these are of major importance as food of the Whooping Crane on their wintering range in coastal Texas, where most of the detailed field work was centered. All seven of these are animal in character. Considering the list as a whole, 62 per cent of the items given are animal and 38 per cent are vegetable.

Thanks to the cooperation of Dr. Harvey I. Fisher of the University of Illinois, who preserved the stomach contents of a specimen sent to him for study, and to Francis M. Uhler of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who analyzed these contents, we can now add to this picture with the following data. One insect and two species of mollusks are entirely new on the Whooping Crane's food list, while two additional species are listed—one a mollusk and another a plant—for which only the genera were previously known. The results of Mr. Uhler's examination follow:

<i>Animal Items</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Fragments of several crayfish ( <i>Cambarus</i> sp.).....	30
Fragments of many snails including the following:	
Many orb snails ( <i>Helisoma</i> sp.).....	28
3 common periwinkles ( <i>Littorina irrorata</i> ).....	10
5 + <i>Cerithidea aguayoi</i> .....	8
4 + bladder snails ( <i>Physa</i> sp.).....	6
Cricket ( <i>Gryllidae</i> ).....	trace
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	82
 <i>Vegetable Items</i>	
Remain of several acorns ( <i>Quercus virginiana</i> ).....	16
1 tuber from <i>Cyperus</i> sp. (probably <i>C. rotundus</i> ).....	2
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	18

Five of the above items were previously listed as Whooping Crane food: the periwinkle by observation, the crayfish and acorns by both observation and analysis of droppings, and the *Cerithidea* snail and sedge tuber (*Cyperus* sp.) by droppings analysis. The cricket and the orb and bladder snails have not been recorded as food for this species, while specific determinations were heretofore lacking for the *Cerithidea* snail and the sedge.

The contents of the stomach made up only 16 cc. of material. No grit or other foreign matter was present. It should be mentioned that the crane from which this stomach was secured died of gunshot wounds on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, March 25, 1948. It had lost the use of its left wing as a result of a previous wound, but had been doing well on the refuge until it wandered to the exposed boundary along the Intracoastal Waterway and was shot a second time, probably from a boat or tug passing through this unfortunately located channel. At the time of death it was thin and weak and weighed only 10 lbs. and 5 ounces.—ROBERT P. ALLEN, *National Audubon Society, Tavernier, Florida.*