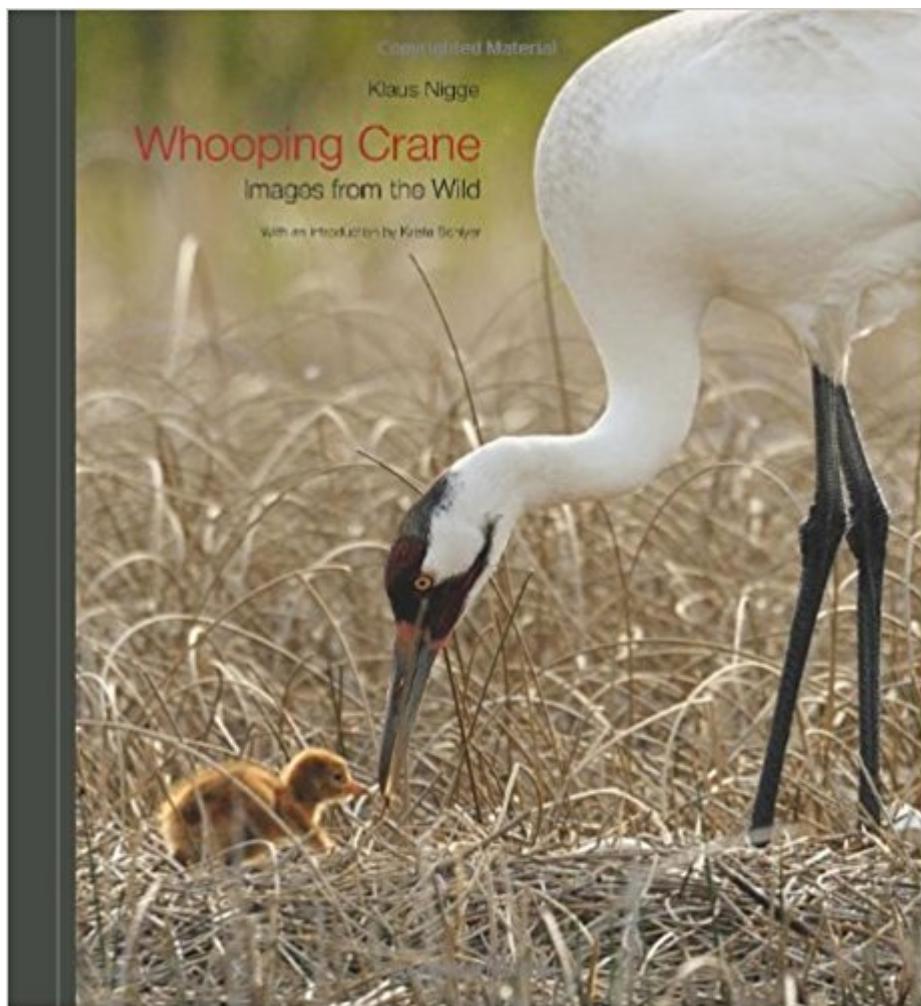


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# Whooping Crane: Images From The Wild



## Synopsis

Approximately 250 wild whooping cranes nest in northern Canada and winter in south Texas, flying 2,500 miles annually between these two distinct havens: the coastal marshes of the Gulf of Mexico and the boreal wilderness on the border of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Through twists of good fortune, each of these terminal migratory places is protected from human encroachment "by a U.S. national wildlife refuge on the one hand and a Canadian national park on the other." This last remaining natural flock of the species, its numbers small but slowly increasing, has thus become known by the names of its sanctuaries: Aransas "Wood Buffalo." On the flock's wintering grounds at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, photographer Klaus Nigge has captured the daily activity of a single family over several weeks in two separate years, documenting their life in the salt marshes of the central Texas coast and, in one year, the happy arrival from the north of twin adolescents, itself an unusual event. Then, with the backing of National Geographic magazine, he received unprecedented permission from the Canadian government to photograph the cranes' summer nesting sites in remote areas of Wood Buffalo National Park. To obtain these unique photographs, he sat in a cleverly constructed blind for six days and nights, watching as a chick hatched and the adults cared for their young. There he witnessed both the peace and the perils of the cranes' summer haven. In three galleries, each containing portfolios of images of these magnificent birds in their natural habitat, Nigge captures the beauty and essential mystery that have led humans the world over to include cranes in their earliest myths and legends. Additionally, Nigge has written vignettes to accompany each of the portfolios. Krista Schlyer provides an introductory text that affords an overview of crane history. She chronicles the monumental efforts by humans to ensure the survival of the species and has added a profile of Nigge, outlining his extraordinary entry into the world of wild whooping cranes in order to acquire these breathtaking photographs. See the recent article in National Geographic [here](#).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Klaus Nigge's photography captures the rarely seen behavior and astounding grace of whooping cranes. More importantly, it gives voice to the cranes' continuing struggle for survival." â "Kathy Moran, Senior Editor, Natural History, National Geographic"Klaus Nigge's photography captures the rarely seen behavior and astounding grace of whooping cranes. More importantly, his photography gives voice to the cranes' continuing struggle for survival." â " Kathy Moran, Senior Editor, Natural History, National Geographic (Kathy Moran Senior Editor, Natural History, National Geographic)

"Uniquely in the pages of this book, Klaus Nigge takes us for the first time to the nesting habitat of a pair of whooping cranes and their newborn offspring in the wilderness of northern Canada, and also photographically depicts the lives of that migrating population in their more familiar wintering grounds on the Texas coast. . . . I hope a copy of this remarkable book can become a centerpiece in libraries and schools wherever cranes and humans converge."--from the Foreword by George Archibald, Cofounder, International Crane Foundation (International Crane Foundation)"This beautiful book, filled with the remarkable photos taken by German wildlife photographer Klaus Nigge, documents the world's last self-sustaining wild population."Â â " Marie Beth Jones, The Facts (Marie Beth Jones The Facts 2011-01-23)"The book is visually impressive, measuring 11" x 12", making it a true coffee-table production. Inside is a well-written 25-page 'primer' on whooping cranes by Krista Schlyer dealing with cranes in myth and legend, crane vocalizations and displays, and breeding biology. . . The heart of the book consists of more than 150 spectacular single- and double-page color photographs obtained at the cranes' wintering grounds in and near Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. . . amazing photographs." - Paul A. Johnsgard, School of Biological Sciences, Univ. of Nebraska, Great Plains Research (Paul A. Johnsgard, School of Biological Sciences, Univ. of Nebraska Great Plains Research 2011-05-04)"This book, by the extraordinary photographer Klaus Nigge, is both a collection of stunning images that celebrate the utter beauty of this magnificent bird, and a poignant reminder of why we should continue to protect and preserve this species. Impressive photographs of Common Cranes *Grus grus* by Klaus Nigge. . ." - T.R.B., IBIS (T.R.B. IBIS 2011-05-16)"Un beau cadeau a faire a ceux qui aiment les grues."

(Ornithos 2011-09-21)"...a coffee table book with text...two books in one...Schyler does a reasonable job...a number of Nigge's images from Wood Buffalo NP are compelling...All in all, Whooping Crane: Images from the Wild by Klaus Nigge is worth its asking price of \$45.00."--Mike Hannisan, Texas Birds Annual 2011 (Mike Hannisan Texas Birds Annual 2011 2011-10-18)"...a beautiful coffee table book..."up close and personal" look at the life of whooping cranes...succeeded admirably...excellent Forward...wonderful photographs...taken in two remote areas on the continent that are vital to the cranes survival...no captions...works fine as the viewer "reads" the pictures in logical sequence...present dramatic and beautiful images...anyone who is interested in the lives of birds will enjoy this book. It is a thoughtful and beautiful study of this highly endangered species which is dependent on humanity for its survival. It is also a portrait of the wilderness needed by this impressive bird, and by extension, needed by ourselves."--Jerry Dodd, Journal of American Studies Association of Texas (Jerry Dodd Journal of American Studies Association of Texas 2012-02-17)"The book is a jewels with photographs that captivate and amaze."--Penny Hong, Texas Now (Penny Hong Texas Now 2013-02-07)

KLAUS NIGGE™s photographs can be seen in the National Geographic Image Collection and on his website, [www.nigge.com](http://www.nigge.com). He is a fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers and a former president of the Society of German Nature Photographers (Gesellschaft Deutscher Tierfotografen, GDT). Nigge resides in Luenen, Germany. KRISTA SCHLYER is a Washington D.C.-based photographer and writer whose articles have appeared in National Parks Magazine, Defenders Magazine, and Wildlife Conservation. A member of the International League of Conservation Photographers, her current work documents the disruptions to both animal and human life caused by the construction of the fence along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Excellent look into the lives and nesting behavior of America's tallest bird, the majestic Whooping Crane. Very good price that I was glad to find.

This is a chance to spend a year with the most endangered cranes in the world. The photographs are remarkable.

This book is a world premiere: stunning photos from the life and breeding site of the Whooping Crane, the charismatic and still extremely rare North American bird and legendary flagship of global nature conservation. Working on an assignment for the National Geographic Society, and with the

permission of the Canadian nature protection agency, the nature photographer Klaus Nigge is the first of his guild ever to be allowed to photograph a breeding pair of this beautiful crane at the nest. The necessary security precautions were about the same level as those for the protection of a U.S. president. The "Whooper" is classed as highly endangered on the basis of its still very small population. In 1938 there were only 15 adults, whose breeding grounds were unknown, so protection efforts were at first concentrated only on the birds' wintering site, the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas coast. It was only in 1954, and by pure coincidence, that breeding birds were found. From his plane a bush pilot saw a white dot in the remote swamps of the Canadian Wood Buffalo National Park: it was a breeding *Grus americana*. The entire wild breeding population is still concentrated in this one National Park. Since then, effective protection of this long-lived though slow-breeding bird has been easier. In 2007 a new maximum of 65 active nests were counted from the air. The informative text section of this volume has been kept brief. The book's focus is on the photographs, and they are a true cornucopia of images from the annual cycle of this majestic bird, from breeding site to winter quarters. Each photo is a document, at the same time biologically informative and incredibly beautiful. Every single one allows us a glimpse into the unknown life of one of the world's rarest birds, together with the experience of something that is almost extinct on our Earth, a fragment of truly untouched and intact nature. This is a weighty book, and not only in the sense of its serious content. I can say with confidence that this volume is one of the most beautiful bird books that I have ever seen. Karl Schulze-Hagen

I think it doesn't get any cuter - a beautiful book with beautiful color photos of an endangered species. Let's hope that Operation Migration and the other folks working to save them have wonderful success.

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