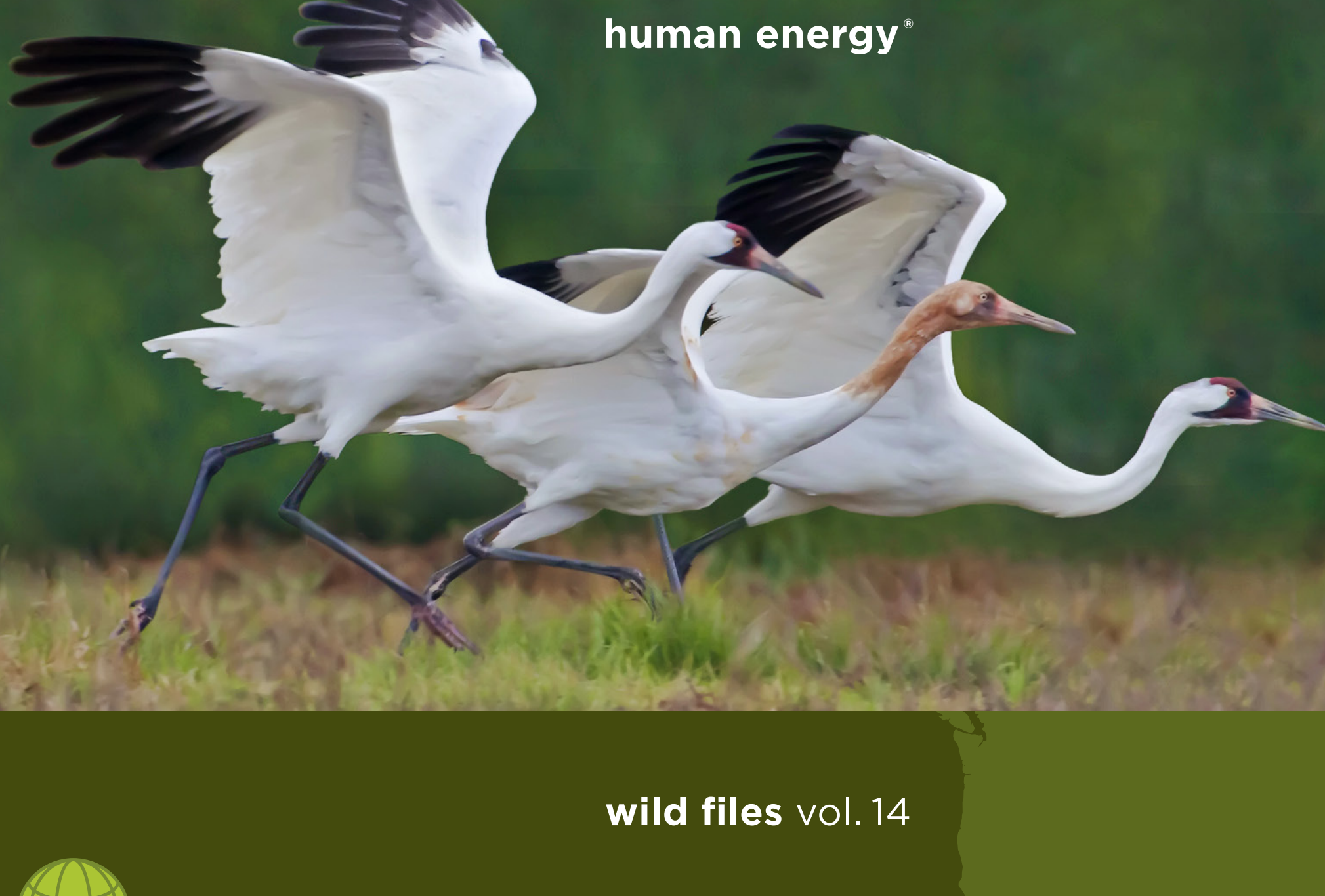


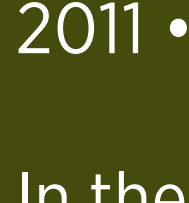


# whooping cranes of louisiana

human energy\*



wild files vol. 14



## situation

2011 • Louisiana

In the early 20th century, North America's whooping crane population experienced a devastating decline driven by several factors:

- Prairie and marsh habitats converted to farmland
- Unregulated hunting

An endangered species, whooping cranes mate for life and share parenting duties.

**By 1950, only one whooping crane was known to exist in the state of Louisiana.**



In 2011, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF) established the whooping crane reintroduction program with support from two key partners:

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Chevron

## Goal:

To sustain a population of about 120 individuals and 30 productive pairs for 10 years without additional restocking.



## actions taken

LDWF started a new wild population of cranes in Louisiana by releasing a "cohort" of 10 juvenile cranes.

"Cohort" is a term that refers to several young cranes assembled without parents to socialize together so they will thrive as a group.

They continued to introduce a new cohort of juvenile cranes each year with the help of other partners.

### juvenile markings

White with patches of cinnamon brown



**LDWF used grant funding from Chevron for three critical areas of support:**

1

Satellite transmitter equipment and associated communications costs for tracking:

- The cranes' movement
- Habitat selections
- Adaptive behavior adjusting to life in the wild

2

Public outreach campaign (billboards, TV and radio) designed to alert the public about:

- The species
- How to observe them from a distance
- How to report any disturbances to the bird

3

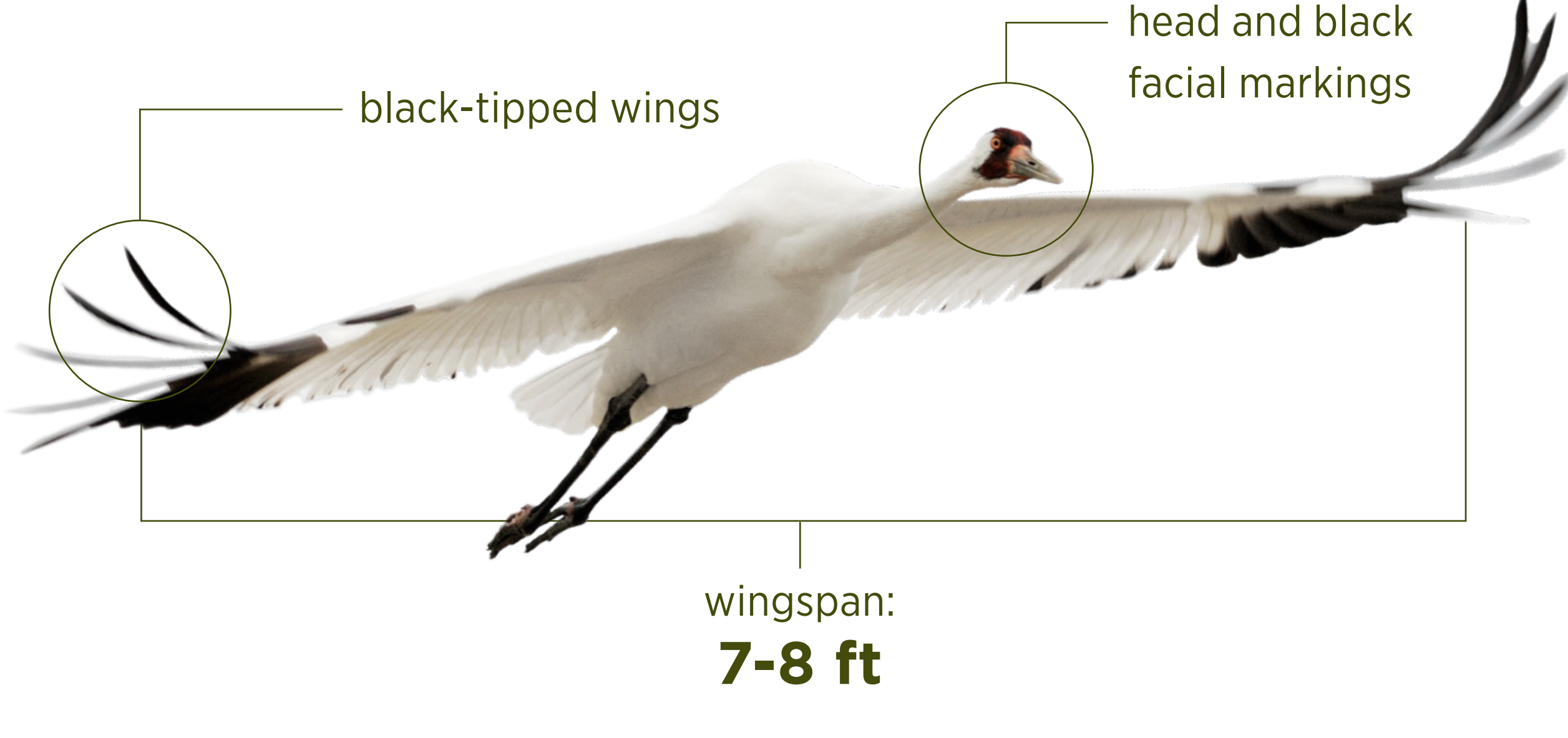
Lesson plans, classroom tools, and educational workshops for Louisiana middle and high school teachers about endangered species and LDWF's conservation programs.

## adult whooping cranes

Tallest bird native to North America

black-tipped wings

white with a red head and black facial markings



wingspan:

**7-8 ft**

lifespan in the wild:

**22-24 years**

weight:

**11-17 lbs**

height:

**up to 5 ft**

## whooping cranes are omnivorous

### winter diet includes:



blue crabs



clams

### summer diet includes:



frogs



fish



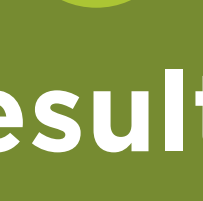
rodents



small birds



berries



## results

LDWF received support and cooperation from many landowners and farmers whose properties are frequently visited by the cranes.



April 2016 brought the first verified hatching of a whooping crane chick in the state since 1939.

In 2017, Audubon Nature Institute began to provide a significantly increased number of crane chicks raised at their rearing facilities to supplement both the migratory and non-migratory whooping crane populations in Louisiana.

As of 2018, LDWF has introduced 125 juvenile whooping cranes to the Louisiana ecosystem, and seven wild-hatched chicks have fledged successfully.

our actions were consistent with our goal to conserve biodiversity:

**we strive to avoid or reduce the potential for significant impacts on sensitive species, habitats and ecosystems**

Wild Files is a series on Chevron.com that spans the world to cover interesting examples of how we deliver on our commitment to environmental stewardship.