

# Whooping Crane Identification Guide

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Whooping Cranes have a long, straight beak. They fly with their neck outstretched, their long legs trailing behind. The primary feathers of the wing tips are black.



Snow Goose wings also have black in the primary feathers but their legs don't extend behind. Their neck doesn't stretch out as far as a crane's.



White Snow Geese very often are seen in flocks mixed with "blue geese" (a dark color form of Snow Geese) and with Canada Geese, so if very dark birds are in the same group as black-and-white birds, they may be geese.



The neck of a White Ibis stretches forward and their legs stretch behind like cranes', but their bill is down-curved.



The black in the wings of American White Pelicans extends along the secondary wing feathers and these birds have very short legs.



The black area of a Wood Stork's wings extends along the entire trailing edge of the wing, longer than these other species.

The Whooping Crane Conservation Association appreciates [Laura Erickson and Journey North](#) for allowing the use of these photographs and text in this guide.

An extended guide in video format can be seen at [whoopingcrane.com](http://whoopingcrane.com) and on [YouTube](#)