

## Conservation history and current threats to endangered Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) in North America

**Date** Wed. February  
28, 2024

**Time** 16:00 (UTC+8)

**Venue** 6N-11 & Zoom



You can also email us to request the Zoom link  
(check SBS website → NEWS & EVENTS)

### Abstract

The Whooping Crane is one of the most endangered birds worldwide and the tallest bird in North America. A migratory bird, it breeds in Northwest Territories, Canada and winters along the Gulf of Mexico Coastal marshes in Texas, USA. Habitat loss and other factors led to a low population size of 14 individuals in 1941. Official conservation actions and other activities have allowed the population to increase to several hundred. However, multiple threats like inbreeding, shooting, limited wintering habitat, and increased interactions with human activities make full recovery of the species uncertain. Former (captive breeding, reintroductions) and current conservation activities and research such as impacts of sea level rise on winter habitat, threats during migration, and human interactions will be presented.



**Dr. Felipe Chavez-Ramirez** received his Ph.D. and MSc in Wildlife Ecology at Texas A&M University. He currently serves as Chief Academic Officer at Pawnee Nation College.

### Research focus:

- Avian ecology and conservation of North American cranes (Whooping Crane, Sandhill and Cuban Sandhill Crane).
- Endangered bird research in Mexico, Canada, Russia, and Australia.

**Academic experience:** University of Houston, Western Colorado University, University of Nebraska, and Texas A&M University

**Non-academic experience:** Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust, Chihuahua Desert Ecoregion Program for the World Wildlife Fund

All are welcome!