## Birds of the Wetlands and Water

onk! Quack! Cackle! Squawk!
Tune your ears to the wetland
symphony, a resounding testament
to the astonishing number and
diversity of birds in these marshes.

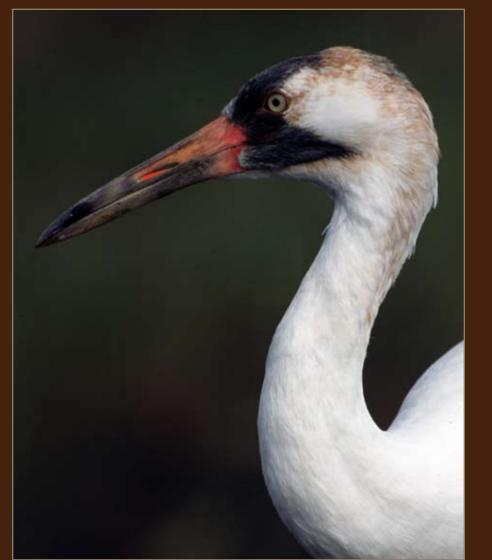
Herons, egrets, rails, cranes, ducks, geese, pelicans, gulls, terns, and shorebirds live in and migrate through the Byway's wetlands by the millions.

Many of these wetland birds remain hidden in the dense marsh foliage. Listen for the rolling trill of the marsh wren, the descending whinny of the sora, and the deep pumping "oong-ka-choonk" of the American bittern (also known as the "thunder-pumper").

While most wetland birds here are seasonal, a number remain through the summer. Snowy plover, blue-winged teal, white-faced ibis, king rail, and many others nest here. Others, like the Canada goose, are year-round residents. In truth, there is no day along the Byway without the sounds of wetland birds.







## Whooping Crane/Ryan Hagerty, USFWS

## **Whooping Crane**

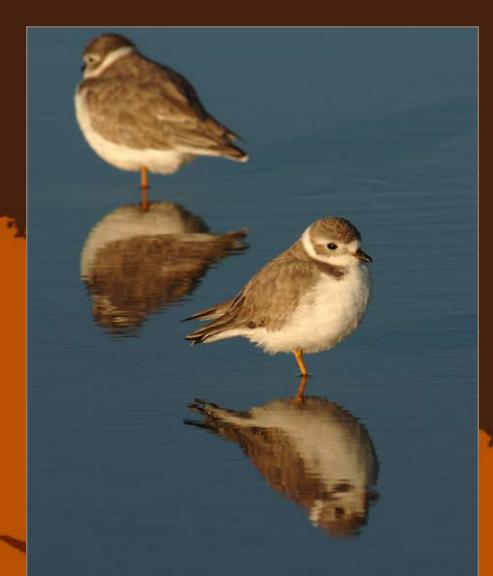
In 1941, just 21 whooping cranes remained in the wild. By 2007, the population had rebounded to almost 350. Most migrate between Canada and the Gulf coast of Texas, and Byway wetlands are among the few places where you consistently see this majestic bird during migration.



Franklin's Gull/Ted Lee Eubanks

## Franklin's Gull

After nesting in the northern Great
Plains, Franklin's gulls undertake an
astounding migration. They fly to the
Texas coast and continue to Mexico's
Isthmus of Tehuantepec. From there,
they fly overland to the Pacific coast,
which they follow to southern Peru
and northern Chile.



**Motion and Change** 

Consider the American goldenplover, able to fly more than 3,000
miles without a pause. Or the piping
plover, which navigates through our
wetlands to the same Texas beach
each year. Whatever the mystery
or magic, Byway wetlands offer the
perfect place to contemplate this
miracle of motion.







Funded in part by the Federal
Highway Administration through the
Kansas Scenic Byways Program.