The only pick-up since then was in 1971, when 11 eggs were taken from nests. It was decided to return to the practice this year because of the low survival rate of fledglings. Only one of the two young that flew south last autumn survived the winter, lowering the total number of wild whooping cranes in the world to 48.

Appearance

The whooping crane is a large, satiny-white bird with a long neck, long, dark, pointed bill, and long, thin black legs. When erect, a large male stands more than five feet tall — the tallest of all North American birds. At close range it is an imposing and beautiful bird, with its cap of crimson skin, its bright yellow eyes, and its arched, drooping tail plumes.

In the air it is even more magnificent. The white wings measure six feet or more between the tips of the long, black flight feathers that fan out like fingers. In flight the head is extended forward like a lance, and the legs trail equally straight behind. In normal flight the great wings beat in powerful slow rhythm, at about two beats a second, with a quick, strong upward flick. Normal flying speed is about 45 miles per hour. It has a loud, clear, bugle-like call.

U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

Adult and young whooping crane. The immature bird is still in rusty-coloured plumage. The female usually lays two eggs, though only one is raised.

Extended period for Canadians in United Nations Force in Cyprus

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, announced on June 7 that the Government had extended Canadian participation in the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further period of six months. He noted that in the absence of any military deconfrontation or significant progress in negotiating a lasting settlement there was a continuing requirement for a UN presence if inter-communal violence was to be avoided.

The Force is composed of personnel from Australia, Austria, Britain, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden as well as Canada. Canada provides the second largest contingent. The Canadian unit currently serving in Cyprus is No. 1 Commando Group of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, usually stationed at Edmonton.

Seed mission to the U.S.S.R.

A trade mission of seven visited the Soviet Union from May 24 to June 8 to determine the potential market for Canadian seeds.

Representatives from the seed industry, the University of Manitoba, Agriculture Canada and Industry, Trade and Commerce, were studying the seed market in the U.S.S.R. to determine the varieties of seed used, produced and imported. They will make an assessment of the potential for Canada after their technical discussions with Soviet authorities.

The Canadians visited research institutes and production areas in Moscow, Leningrad, Volgograd and Krasnodar. The mission was in accordance with the themes and protocol endorsed at the first meeting of the Canada/U.S.S.R. Working Group on Agribusiness in 1973.

Canada's export of forage (grasses and clover) seeds totalled $14,612,000 in 1972 and $18,975,000 in 1973.

Metal stamps honour Montreal Olympics

For the first time ever, the Canada Post Office has deep cast in gold, silver and bronze exact copies of postage stamps.

In 1976, Canada will be host to the XXI Olympiad, and in honour of this memorable event the Canada Post Office has issued, in a limited edition, special Olympic stamp sculptures in fine gold, fine silver and bronze.

The stamps that inspired the series
These inaugural metal sculptures are copies of the "Olympic Action Stamps", which are the postage stamps that include an extra charge.

To protect the integrity of the set and to assure its continued value as a collector's item, the Canada Post Office has limited this unique issue to customers who place their orders within 60 days from June 8. Once these orders are filled the master die will be ground back to smooth metal.

Seal and serial number
To indicate that these are the first metal stamps officially commissioned by the Canada Post Office, each piece carries a Post Office seal, a hallmark