The Florida Sandhill Crane is a subspecies of the North American Sandhill Crane. These birds are non-migratory, spending their entire lives in Florida. As omnivores their diet includes both plants and meat, usually from insects and small mammals.

These monogamous birds breed for life and raise their young together. They depend on shallow marshes for roosting and nesting and open upland habitats for foraging. With as few as 5,000 Florida Sandhill Cranes left, this Threatened Florida native needs protection to remain one of our unique and treasured species for years to come.

All cranes participate in a dancing ritual, which can include jumping, running, stick tossing, wing flapping, and bowing. Dancing is considered normal activity and may help relieve stress and aggression, or increase the strength of the bond between a pair.

Green PLACE (Park Land Acquisition for Conservation and Environmental Protection) is an initiative to preserve, enhance and restore environmentally sensitive lands. This program encourages the establishment of regional corridors, greenways, and blueways.

Preservation of environmentally sensitive lands is an important tool used by federal, state, local and private organizations. These lands preserve natural resources, protect imperiled wildlife and plant species, provide passive recreational opportunities for the public, and provide wildlife corridors for species that require a large geographic distribution, such as the Florida Black Bear and the Florida Panther.
Habitat: Inland shallow freshwater marshes, prairies, pastures and farmlands of Florida. They can be found from the Everglades to the Okefenokee Swamp.

Population: Estimated at 4,000-5,000 Florida Sandhill Cranes. In the winter about 25,000 of migratory Greater Sandhill Cranes join Florida's population.

Age: Up to 20 years.

Home Range: Florida Sandhill Cranes are non-migratory birds that live in Florida year-round.

Diet: Sandhill Cranes are omnivorous meaning they will eat plant and animal matter. Their diet consists mostly of seeds, worms, insects, lizards, crayfish and mice.

Threats: Loss or deterioration of habitat caused mainly by land development; these sensitive birds don't adjust well to environmental changes and high human populations.

Status: State Threatened.*

*Threatened Species: A threatened species is likely to become endangered in the future if preventive measures are not taken. By protecting a species at this critical point, endangerment and extinction are more easily avoided.