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1 until later in the winter, and it seems to be tender, and these
2 whooping cranes have to catch these blue crabs. And if they
3 catch a large one, they have to smash it. And they grab it and
4 they smash it with their beak into several parts, and the chick
5 is standing there waiting to be fed.

6 And the chicks have a call, called a food begging
7 call, or a weeping call, and it sounds like this, "whoop,
8 whoop," and you can hear it for quite a distance. And this is
9 telling the parent whooping cranes, "I'm hungry, I need food,
10 please get a blue crab for me," or a whatever.

11 And this family remains intact through the winter,
12 and the parents are lavishing care on their chick, if
13 conditions are normal. And in the spring, they even migrate
14 back together, together, but the chick, of course, leaves its
15 parents as they begin the new breeding cycle.

16 But the strange thing that happened in, not only in
17 the year of 2008-2009, during that drought, many whooping crane
18 juveniles were observed without their parents, wandering around
19 the National Aransas Refuge. And as Dr. Chavez will report in
20 his testimony, if there's a food scarcity, the number one
21 concern of the crane pair is to survive themselves. That's
22 number one. Number two, if there's enough food, the chick can
23 survive.

24 And it appears from the evidence that, actually
25 Dr. Chavez has observed this happening, that the parents, if

