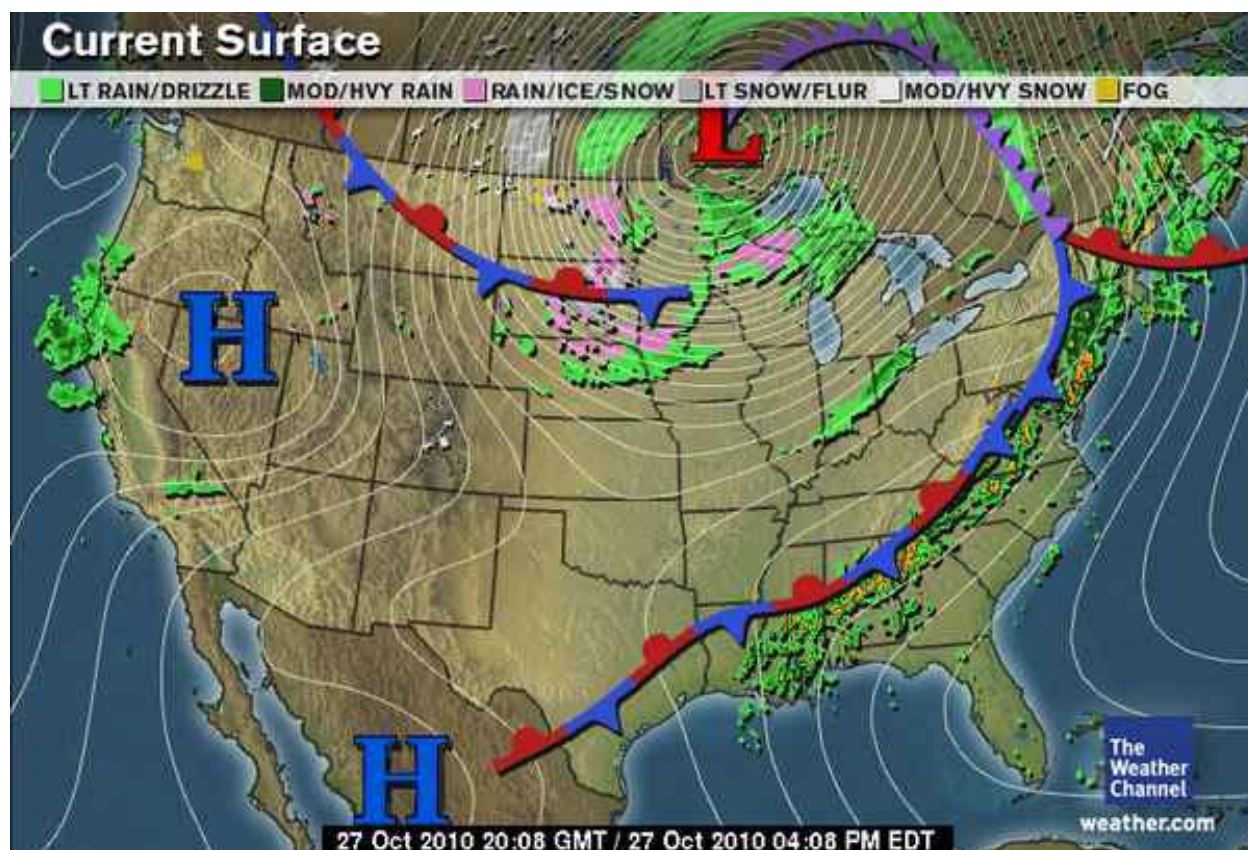


On 10-27-10, nine whooping cranes were reported mid-morning in spiral flight NE of Wichita Falls. They might have spent the night on the Red River located 4 miles to the north of the sighting. Good migration conditions were present in north Texas. In checking the national map (below), I found one weak low pressure system over central Texas that is expected to reach Arkansas tomorrow. There also was an incredibly strong low pressure system just north of Minnesota in Canada that has been bringing violent weather to the northern and northeastern U.S., with record strong winds and tornados. Meteorologists have called this a weather "bomb", doing damage to buildings, knocking out power, wrecking tied-down small aircraft, and even flipping over tractor trailer rigs. Conditions in the PM on 10-27-10 in Bismark, ND were winds from the NW at 30 mph gusting to 46 mph. That will get the cranes moving.



Surface winds recorded from North to South as of 3:30 PM on 10-27-10 were as follows:

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 27 degrees, winds 16 mph from the NW
 Regina, Saskatchewan, snow, winds 28 from the NNW
 Bismark ND, 30-46 mph from the NNW with light snow
 Pierre, SD, 19-42 mph from the NW with snow
 Valentine, NE, 28-39 mph from the NW
 North Platte, NE, 34-46 mph from the NW
 Grand Island, NE, 11-23 from the SSE
 Kearney, NE 28-39 mph from the W
 Hastings, NE, 26-39 mph from the WNW

McCook, NE, 19-39 from the WSW
Stockton, KS, 23-37 from the WNW
Great Bend, KS, 21 from the WNW
Hutchinson, KS, 20-30 mph from the West,
Oklahoma City, OK, 10 mph from the WNW
Wichita Falls, TX 7 mph from the N
Austin, TX, 2 mph, variable
Victoria, TX 5 mph, variable
Rockport, TX, 3 mph, variable

Between Canada and North Texas, only in parts of central and eastern Nebraska would there be some "confused" winds that might be hindering crane migration. The weaker front in central Texas on 10-27-10 pushed on through to the coast and would have allowed cranes to reach Arkansas on 10-28-10.

