

THE BROLGA BUGLE

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FEATURE....

One Morning in the Life of a Siberian Crane Researcher

The author, an ICF Director and researcher, is currently conducting doctoral studies on the Siberian Crane in India. The next Brolga Bugle will have a story about his work and ICF's role in preserving this crane.

by Ron Sauey

It is cold, dark, and 5 a.m. I've managed to silence the alarm clock beside my cot, and for a moment I debate whether this initial victory over the elements is sufficient for the morning and I should return to my dreams to await a more decent hour to greet this day. Suddenly the call of a pair of Sarus Cranes shatters the stillness and I'm reminded, appropriately, of my duties here in India. The down sleeping bag gets a reluctant shove with a bare foot and I grab quickly for my clothes in the 40° darkness. A few of the game rangers are already up, and I can hear them outside shivering and grumbling around the small fire which cooks their breakfast of *Chi* and *Chipattis*. As I emerge from my tiny bamboo cabin, I glance up to see a half moon shining brightly in starry Indian sky — a promise of fair weather for this day. In the kitchen a sweeper is already raising dust with his home-make hand broom but he takes the time to wheel out the "Sahib's" bicycle from the storeroom in back. I smile a thank-you, attach my 'scope, tape recorder, binoculars, tripod, and other paraphernalia to the rear of the cycle, and push off into the "jungle," which is what the locals call the forests surrounding the government Rest House. As I

Feature Continued

ride through the gates of the compound, a spotted owlet chatters a farewell from its perch on the small outbuilding.

The tall dark trees looming over the road look especially sinister in the gray light of the waning moon. As I cycle along I consider that a tiger would do well to wait for breakfast along this road. Wild cattle often wander out of the forest and stroll down these roads at night and of course people . . .

"Nonsense!" counters my rational side, "the Maharaja of Bharatpur shot the last tiger here over 20 years ago!" For the next hundred meters of road I try to recall exactly what George Schaller mentions in his book *The Tiger and the Deer* about the incidence of man-eating tigers in India. "Still," intrudes my less rational side, "the district forest officer did say that a tiger was seen recently only 12 miles from here, and a tiger could easily cover that distance in a single evening."

Of course this last thought is an unfortunate and irrevocable error. Suddenly all sensible considerations shrink among the shadows of the great trees and the question of whether there is a tiger in the sanctuary is superfluous. The matter now under consideration is whether a tiger can run faster than a bicycle carrying a 'scope, tape recorder, binoculars, and other paraphernalia.

I increase my speed. As I approach the larger sections of shadowed road I brace myself for the inevitable rush. There is only one hope. I must reach the marsh where the forest ends. No chance for an ambush there, I pedal faster. I become Ichabod S. Crane (S. for Siberian) speed-

Feature Continued on Page Three

WINTER COUNT of RARE CRANES COMPLETED

Cranes migrate to traditional wintering areas each autumn where they are easily counted.

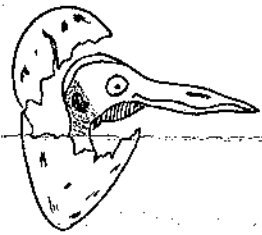
This December 49 Whooping Cranes (3 young included) returned 2700 miles from northern Canadian breeding grounds to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in southern Texas. This is the same as last year's count.

Siberian Cranes wintering on the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary near Agra, India, number 63 birds (6 young included). See feature article.

253 Manchurian Cranes (31 young included) congregated at 26 feeding stations in southeastern Hokkaido, Japan. This is up 23 from the 1973 count of 230. Three Manchurians are also wintering on Honsu Island for the first time in decades. Forty-one Manchurians were located in South Korea.

White Naped Cranes are declining in southern Japan. This year only 300 birds showed up at the Areseki Feeding Station — down from a high of 450 in 1972. About 1500 White Naped were located in South Korea, of which 300 were believed to be birds en route for Areseki.

The Hooded Cranes are still increasing. This year they topped the 3000 mark at the Areseki Feeding Station in Kyushu, Japan. This is a remarkable recovery from a low of 250 in 1947.



MILE- STONES



Black-Necked Cranes at Peking Zoo

by S. Nakagawa

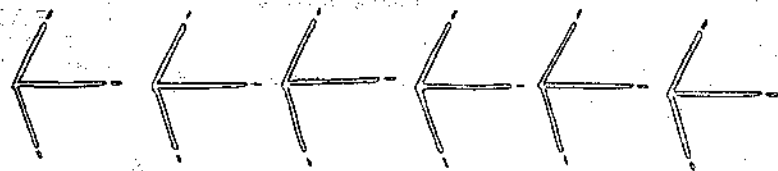
NEWS OF THE WORLD'S LEAST KNOWN CRANE

After an exhaustive correspondence survey of all imaginable contacts in countries bordering Tibet and inside Tibet, I.C.F. has unearthed recent information on the top-of-the-world crane, *Grus nigricollis*, the Black-Necked Crane.

An Indian ornithologist, B. Biswas saw 15-17 birds in northern valley of Bhutan. Mr. John Day reported similar flocks in northern Nepal. Missionary Robert Morse, now exiled from Burma and living in Thailand, writes that his friends in northern Burma still see Black-Necks wintering along forest streams. And researchers in North Vietnam claim that since the cessation of U.S. bombing of their country the Black-Necks have returned as winter visitors.

The species breeds across the desolate Tibetan plateau and into other neighboring western provinces of China. From officials of Tokyo's Ueno Zoo we learned that the Peking and Shanghai zoos have 2 and 3 Black-Necks respectively — the only known captive specimens.

More Milestones on Page Three



HOW I. C. F. BEGAN

September 3 to 6 the International Crane Foundation will host an International Crane Workshop of crane researchers from the world over. Foremost scientists from U.S.S.R., Korea, Japan, South Africa, and East Germany plus many other countries will attend. The conference is being jointly hosted by the International Crane Foundation and the Sandhill Crane Committee of North America.

For four days participants will have a chance to present scientific papers, observe various crane projects underway at I.C.F. headquarters and in the field near Baraboo. Of particular value will be a demonstration of radio telemetry and capture and marking the local wild Wisconsin Sandhill Cranes.

Research is the basis on which sound conservation programs are established. Communication among the world's crane researchers at the 1975 International Crane Workshop at I.C.F. will greatly aid each scientist's research program in our common interest to save the cranes.

FEDERAL TAX LAW ENCOURAGES CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

by Forrest Hartmann

The inception early this century of our Federal tax laws encourages rather than curbs the generosity of Americans. Under these laws, the government stimulates private voluntary support by granting tax deductions to those who give to schools, churches, hospitals and other public supported charities. As the following paragraphs indicate our Federal income, gift and estate tax laws greatly encourage charitable contributions.

Income Tax. A donor gets a charitable contribution deduction on his or her Federal income tax return for gifts to a charitable institution. The deduction reduces the actual cost of the gift. The out-of-pocket-cost is the amount of the gift minus the tax savings.

The Gift Tax. Many lifetime gifts to family members and others are subject to the Federal gift tax (rates vary from 2 1/2 per cent to 57 1/2 per cent). But charitable gifts are completely exempt from gift tax.

The Estate Tax. The Federal government taxes (after deductions and the \$60,000.00 exemption) wealth passing to another at death. The rates can go as high as 77 per cent. However, there is an unlimited estate tax deduction for charitable gifts to a charitable institution. Thus, there will be no estate tax no matter how large the gift. Charitable gifts, both those made during lifetime and by Will, are excluded from a donor's taxable estate.

The International Crane Foundation . . .

A nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation of cranes, I. C. F. promotes a five-point conservation program:

- Research . . .
... both in the field and at the foundation headquarters to determine what is essential for the survival of each species.
- Habitat conservation . . .
... to preserve the most crucial link to the crane's survival in nature.
- Breeding . . .
... of captive cranes, to maintain a species bank of the threatened cranes in case the wild populations become extinct.
- Restocking . . .
... after preservation of an area is assured, restocking from the captive flock may be a possibility.
- Public education . . .
... so that the people who still share their land with cranes can know what is needed if the cranes are to survive.

Many readers of the Bugle have asked for a brief account of when and how I.C.F. hatched.

From 1968 to 1971 I.C.F. director George Archibald, a Nova Scotian, conducted a doctoral study on the comparative behavior of cranes at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. He collected some 50 cranes from zoos and studied their communication systems in large confines at Cornell. In autumn, 1971, Ron Sauey from Wisconsin migrated east to study birds at Cornell. Simultaneously Archibald was terminating his doctoral program and issuing birds back to the zoos. The two met. They exchanged thoughts on the establishment of a permanent center to conserve and study the magnificent cranes. Archibald commented that it was a dream to even consider such an idea. Not only are cranes extremely rare and valuable but they are politically sensitive topics, so that a coordinated international approach to their conservation might require another branch of the U.N.

Ron mentioned that his father had just vacated a horse ranch in Wisconsin. All the Arabians were moved to Florida because the Wisconsin winters were too long. En route to Japan on a New York Zoological Society appointment to study Manchurian Cranes, Archibald met Sauey on the Baraboo ranch. One walk around the land and

an evening discussion with Norman Sauey had Ron and George dedicating their lives to the creation and growth of I.C.F.

Plans were rapidly drawn up for the conversion of the equine facilities to more "gruid-y" ones. While Archibald was in Japan, Sauey supervised the molt of the Nodorama Arabian Ranch to the International Crane Foundation. In January 1973 Archibald returned from the Far East and wrote American zoos for the loan of rare cranes to I.C.F. That year was the year of the immigration of cranes to central Wisconsin. And from there I.C.F. has bloomed.

The birth of I.C.F. would not have been possible were it not for the generosity of Norman Sauey. First the use of his ranch, second a financial boost to remodel the place, third for his continuing patience with the world's largest collection of cranes — and crane freaks.

In July 1973 I.C.F. officially obtained a tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service and since then has been entirely dependent on public donations for survival. It is now up to you, the concerned citizens of the world, to assure the continuance of an organization dedicated to the preservation of these magnificent treasures whose right to share this green planet with *Homo sapiens* is as profound as our right to breathe the same air.

I. C. F. OPENS OFFICE IN JAPAN

Since January 1972 I.C.F. has been closely connected with crane research and conservation in Japan. That year George Archibald, Hiroyuki Masatomi, and Kitagawa Tamaki, conducted the first air survey of the breeding population of Manchurian Cranes in Hokkaido and conclusively demonstrated the popular winter population (a tourist spectacle at artificial feeding stations) did not migrate from Japan for breeding. Previously the Japanese believed that most of the cranes reproduced outside of Japan on the Russian islands and on the mainland. Of the 52 pairs located on territories in the 1972 survey, all but three pairs were on unprotected grounds. And these grounds were being ruthlessly developed.

Archibald then conducted a national campaign which was instrumental in stimulating government action to save Hokkaido marshlands.

Since then I.C.F. has maintained close contact with the Japanese. I.C.F. publications have appeared in Japanese journals and magazines. I.C.F. has also been contacting Tokyo business giants regarding the purchase, and thus private protection of crane breeding habitats. After his recent field study in Korea, Archibald returned to Japan for a brief visit. A friend of his, Mrs. Yumi Goto, a retired official of the American Embassy in Tokyo, consented to volunteer as head of a Japan I.C.F. office and two popular nature magazines consented to publish I.C.F. membership ads. I.C.F. expresses deep thanks to Mrs. Goto. Hopefully the *Brolga Bugle* will now carry the foreign crane news to an expanding Japanese membership. We also wish to encourage our Japan members to keep the Bugle posted on crane happenings in the Orient.

OWEN GROMME'S LATEST MASTERPIECE . . .

Owen Gromme, heralded by Roger Tory Peterson as the world's greatest artist of Bald Eagle, Sharp-tailed Grouse and Prairie Chickens, is a neighbor and a great supporter of the I.C.F. ICF esteems him the greatest painter of cranes. Curator Emeritus of the Milwaukee Public Museum, Owen and his wife Anne now reside near Briggsville, Wisconsin. But Owen has by no means retired. In fact, at age 78, he is producing more and better oils than ever before.

Owen, a member of ICF Board of Advisors, has been close to ICF since the foundation was conceived in 1972. That year he produced the largest oil painting he ever created — Whooping Cranes "Salute to the Dawn" of which ICF life members receive a 19 1/2 x 29 1/2 inch print. After George Archibald's return from the Orient in 1973 with stories of Japanese Sacred Cranes in

the skies over Japan, and when four of these great black and white cranes established residence in Baraboo, Owen was inspired by the beauty and majesty of the species, and he created "Sacred Cranes Over Hokkaido" of which prints are available to ICF contributors.

But 1974 was the year of the White-Naped Cranes. Owen refers to this elegant Chinese species as "the most beautiful crane." His canvas is certainly a tribute to that respect. Owen features six White-Naped Cranes spiraling upward between billowing cumulus clouds. Soon they will reach the high altitude thermals to carry them on their annual migration.

ICF extends deep appreciation to a dear friend and a great artist for brushing the crane story not only onto canvas but into the minds of thousands of admirers.

Feature Continued

ing to gain the safety of the old covered bridge. Thank God! In the distance I see the forest giving way to marsh — the tiger must spring now!

The moonlight becomes brighter as I enter the marsh and the air feels damp. "A brisk early morning ride must be good for the circulation," I remark to myself. A paddy heron squawks affirmatively. It is 6:05 but still dark, when I arrive at the jheel where the majority of the Siberian Cranes feed in the morning hours. The moon has since disappeared under a cloud bank and in the dim light only the dark machan ("blind" in Hindi) is visible in the great expanse of marsh before me. Drops of dew cling to the powdery dust at the road's edge but they vaporize as I shuffle around preparing for the 100 m walk to the machan. All the equipment gets shoved into a canvas bag and I strip off my long pants to a pair of denim shorts. I look once over my shoulder to the east and see that a dull red glow skirts the horizon. I must hurry now. With a deep breath I step off the dike and into the dark, cold water. The marsh is thick with rushes and paddy weeds and as I move deeper into the water these plants clutch and grab at my bare legs. These lower extremities numb quickly, however, and soon I become aware only of a mechanical friction of the vegetation against my legs. The moon emerges once again and I see the machan clearly about 50 m further west.

When I reach the machan I heave the equipment up onto the raised platform inside and then boost myself up. I quickly change my pants, dry my legs, and try to rub some feeling back into them. The machan consists of a small table surrounded by a bamboo framework and draped with great mounds of vegetation. It is not an architectural marvel but it is snug and dry inside — a tiny island in a sea of marsh grass. I glance again to the east. The dull red glow has become a deep red stain. "Gruk-Gruk-Gruk-Gruk-Gruk-Gruk," interjects a Dusky Eagle owl. I pull up my legs under my chin and await the dawn.

In a few minutes I peer through one of the peep holes in the machan and see ghostly white shapes dancing in the grayish light. The egrets have begun their day and several are settling old border disputes. The ballet continues as the sun emerges red and swollen over the horizon and gold light floods the marsh. There is an air of expectancy over everything — the crescendo of noises is heralding some event. And

PATUXENT BREEDS THE WORLD'S RAREST CRANE

The Mississippi Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis pulla*) numbers only about 40 birds. They are sedentary, living in southeastern Jackson County, Mississippi. They resemble the more abundant Florida Sandhill Crane but are much darker.

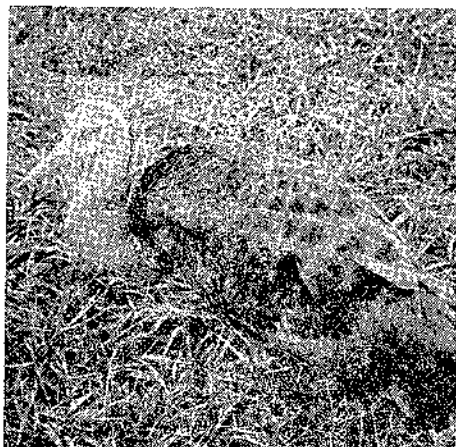
For several years the Patuxent team has been regularly collecting one egg from each two egg clutch of the wild cranes. Eggs were air freighted in an insulated box to Patuxent headquarters in Maryland, where they were hatched and the chicks reared.

Today Patuxent has 2 mated pairs of Mississippi Sandhills — and this year one pair laid fertile eggs from which one chick was raised. Dr. Erickson, Director of Research at Patuxent, reports that the subspecies is much less prolific than other Sandhill subspecies. High infertility and embryonic mortality suggest a possible inbreeding problem in this the world's rarest crane.

then I hear them "Ku-wank, Ku-wank, Ku-wank . . ." The Siberian Cranes are arriving. The clarinet-like calls drift down from overhead and the differing pitches of the males and females create a strange and beautiful harmony. A great swish of wings announces the arrival of a family group consisting of two white adults and a dappled white and brown chick. They land only 10 m from the machan, so close that I stop breathing for fear I will give away my presence. Sitting at this level near the water's surface, the cranes look huge, easily dwarfing the egrets who continue with their business unimpressed by the recent arrivals. Suddenly the male ducks his head comically as another crane swoops low over the family. With a stiff but splendid bow the male utters a nasal "Yaaah!" Immediately he pulls up his great white wings tipped with black and forms a huge fan of feathers. "Toodle-loo, toodle-loo, toodle-loo. . . ." cry the male and female in duet. The female's higher voice forms the "toodle" part of the three part "toodle-loo." So perfectly synchronized are the calls of the male and female that at a distance the call sounds like the work of a single bird. This may be the origin of this crane's Hindi name Karekhar, which supposedly is onomatopoeic.

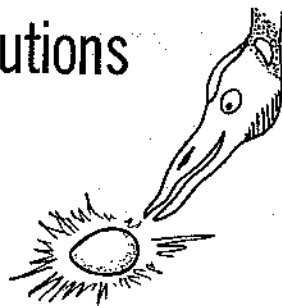
The intruding crane by this time has swung away out of my view and apparently the pair is satisfied that their call has sufficiently warned this bloke not to return because they stop calling abruptly. After milling around for a few moments the family begins feeding. The whole head and neck's submerged in the two feet of water and the body vibrates from the force of the birds' probing in the marsh-bottom. They raise their heads often to take a breath, swallow a choice morsel, or look out for an intruder. The sun has fully risen by now and the feeding cranes, the shimmering water, and the incessant activity of the marsh creatures create a majestic yet peaceful panorama.

My work of filming the actions of these cranes and recording their displays and calls on tape continues until noon when Hookum Singh, a ranger at the Ghana Sanctuary, flushes the cranes from the shore and I escape from the machan unnoticed. This morning has been very good. I managed to avoid a tiger, the cranes behaved well (i.e. performed many good displays) and I'm satisfied that I've fitted another small piece to the puzzle that is *Grus leucogeranus*, the Siberian Crane.



Mississippi Sandhill Crane
This is a Mississippi Sandhill chick
hatched at Patuxent

Contributions



List of Contributors: Gifts of Money

Beatrice P. Adams, Elizabeth C. Anderson, Northern Arizona Audubon Society, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Balding, Mrs. Ira Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. Reverdy Baldwin, Mrs. Amos P. Balsom, John F. Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur K. Bassett, Harland and Darlene Bechmann, Mr. and Mrs. George Becker, Elisabeth Beinert, H. R. Bird, Jane E. Bjorklund, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bostrum, Althea M. Brach, Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Bradley, Susan M. Byrch, George T. Burrill.

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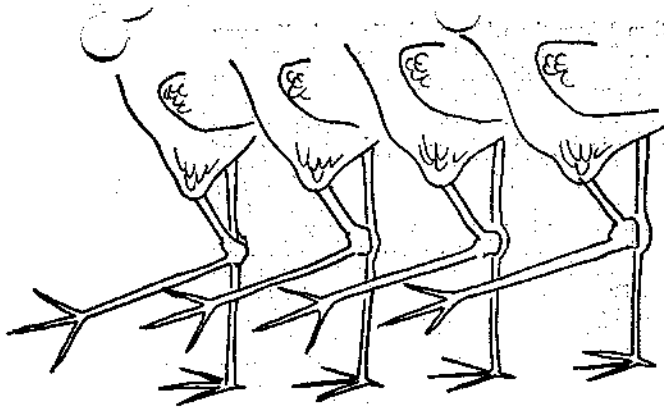
Gift of loan of birds

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CRANES IN REVIEW



National Bird of South Africa Thrives

The International Council for Bird Preservation has set up a World Working Group on Cranes. Each crane species has been assigned to a researcher, and last fall these researchers were asked to report to the I.C.B.P. conference in Australia on the current status of their cranes in the wild.

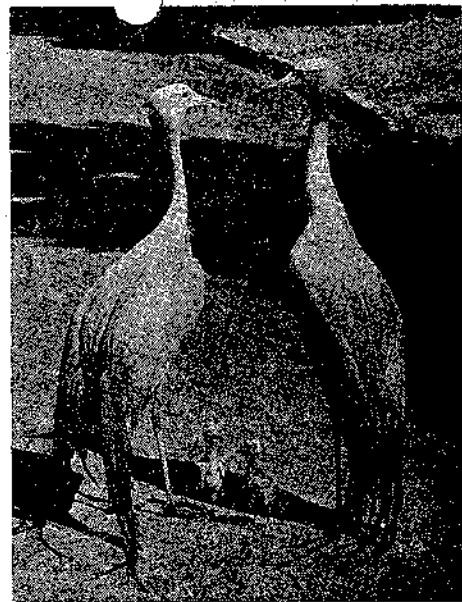
The papers prepared for this meeting have been compiled and will appear in our forthcoming book "Crane Research Round the World." Here is a preview of one of those reports.

From C. A. VanEe of Bloemfontein, South Africa comes a report on the Stanley or Blue Crane (*Anthropoides paradisea*). The Stanleys are one of the most beautiful of all cranes. Plumed in shades of gray, with the lightest gray near the head, the feathers gradually darken to a near charcoal color at the ground. When this bird stands, its nearly 2 foot long tertials or inner wing feathers stream out covering its short tail and droop in a graceful arc to the ground. When dancing or flying these elongated tertials flutter

like Maypole streamers in the wind.

The Stanley Crane is the state bird of South Africa, and any coin collectors among *Brogia Bugle* readers may be familiar with the Stanley Cranes on South African coins.

VanEe re-evaluated the status of these magnificent birds and found that they are in healthy numbers throughout their South African Range. Although not a widespread practice, farmers have and still do poison or shoot flocks that feed in their fields, but up 'til now this has not adversely affected the crane numbers. Most farmers are willing to allow the Stanleys a small amount of their grain crops in exchange for the cranes' natural fondness for crop-destroying insects. In addition, many people try catching these birds to keep as pets; doubtless some are killed or maimed in this way. VanEe reports however, that the Department of Nature Conservation has had some success in discouraging this fad.



Stanley Crane family at Bloemfontein Zoo,
Photo by C. VanEe

Stanley Cranes are found throughout Cape Province, with particularly heavy concentrations in the east. In Natal the Stanleys avoid the seacoast but are found everywhere else. In the Transvaal, Stanley Cranes are especially common in the western part of the province, and they are common throughout the Orange Freestate.

It is a pleasant change to report on a Crane that is holding its own against man's "progress."

Kushiro Park Breeds 3 Manchurian Cranes

About 20 miles east of the maritime city of Kushiro in southeastern Hokkaido, Japan, a Manchurian Crane propagation and public education center operates under the excellent supervision of Mr. Takahashi. Three Manchurian Crane pairs, plus a number of immature non-breeders, are maintained in spacious marshland confines. A surprising fact is that of the three pairs, only the males are pinioned. The females are full-winged and can leave the confines at will. However, each April the pairs faithfully nest in a secluded area of their captive territory. Mr. Takahashi usually removes the first clutch of eggs and artificially incubates, hatches, and hand-rears the chicks. Soon after the first clutch is collected, the adults re-nest and are allowed to incubate their own eggs and rear their own chicks.

In both 1973 and 1974 three Manchurian Cranes were reared at the Kushiro Crane Park. The birds are banded, and those reared by their own parents are allowed to fly with their mothers. Some have already joined the wild flocks.

Mr. Takahashi is now doing important research on the problem of introducing hand-reared (and thus human imprinted) cranes back into the wild. Will they select wild cranes as mates? Will they want to pair with a human? Do they prefer other hand-reared birds for a spouse? All these questions will eventually be answered by Mr. Takahashi and staff at the Kushiro Crane Park. Their findings will not only be of instrumental value to aiding the threatened Manchurian Cranes of Hokkaido, but their results may also help researchers in North America devise management techniques for the Whooping Cranes — the Manchurian's close cousin in the crane family.



Mr. Takahashi and two Manchurian Cranes



Artist Owen Gramme and Chinook, a resident Alaska Sandhill Crane, pose with Mr. Gramme's three masterpieces on canvas.