

THE BROLGA BUGLE

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INTERNATIONAL CRANE
FOUNDATION
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Baraboo, WI 53913, USA

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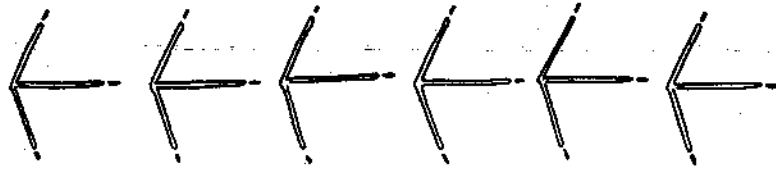
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MAKING TRACKS - news of the foundation



"Here A Chick There A Chick . . ."

ICF Hatches A Banner Batch Of Rare Cranes

A sound resembling a chorus of high-pitched crickets occasionally swells over ICF headquarters these days. A job for the Orkin man? Heavens no! It's the beautiful sound of young crane chicks begging for attention.

Our "cricket calls" began on June 4th, when ICF hatched "Pookie," a Hooded Crane, and quickly increased in volume as fourteen other crane chicks hatched in ICF incubators. All told, we produced five different species of cranes this summer: Demoiselle, Sandhill, Japanese, White-naped, and Hooded cranes.

Pookie, besides being the first chick of 1976, is a very exceptional bird. He (or she) may be the first Hooded Crane ever hatched in captivity. And Pookie has company. "Sim," a second Hooded Crane, scratched out of an egg two days after Pookie, thereby boosting the population of the endangered Hooded Crane species by another individual.

(Pookie, by the way, is named after Yuri Pukinskii, a Russian ornithologist who discovered the first Hooded Crane nest in Siberia last spring.)

But ICF's most impressive achievement this summer was the production of five Japanese Cranes, offspring of ICF's newly-weds, Lulu and Yukio-Ueno. As we reported in the spring Bugle, Ueno is a male Japanese Crane that was generously loaned to ICF last March by Tokyo's Ueno Zoo. After some initial friction, Lulu and Ueno have adjusted very well to each other as evidenced by their five offspring: Sauwaka, Yumu, Miajima, Turen, and Furen.

Our success with the Whitenaped Crane, another endangered species from Siberia, was slightly less spectacular. Despite a carton of eggs and good semen production from ICF's two pairs of Whitenapes, we managed to produce only one chick this year named Charlie. Charlie, like Issac of the biblical story of Abraham and Sarah, represents the first offspring of Casey and Granny, the

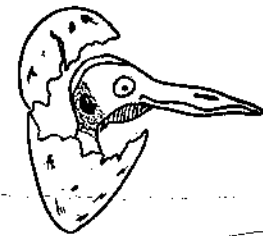
oldest cranes at ICF. Divine providence in this case, however, received assistance through artificial insemination. Our heartiest congratulations to Casey and Granny, anyhow!

Our large sandhill flock grew by five this summer. Unlike the exotic cranes previously mentioned, these five native Americans were brought in as eggs from other places. Two are Florida Sandhills (subspecies *pratensis*) from Patuxent, and the other three were sent to ICF by Cheryl Boise, a graduate student studying cranes in Alaska. Originally Cheryl planned to send four eggs, but one hatched before they could be shipped. This fourth chick, named Al, has now joined Christopher, Osa, and Tutakoke at ICF.

Our special thanks go to the following zoos and individuals who provided ICF with cranes that produced chicks this year: Busch Gardens of Tampa, Honolulu Zoo, San Diego Wild Animal Park, San Diego Zoo, Danny Southwick, and the Ueno Zoo.



Sauwaka, the first of five Japanese Cranes hatched at ICF in 1976. Sauwaka is less than 24 hours old in this photo.



MILE- STONES

Whooper Update

For three weeks this summer, the number of Whooping Cranes in the world topped 100 individuals. This number has never been equaled in the approximately 40 years that accurate censusing has been conducted on this extremely rare crane. Although biologists expect a drop in numbers by early winter due to chick mortality, this year's a milestone in the long battle to save America's most famous bird.

The reason for the large number of Whoopers this year stems from three programs underway between the U. S. and Canadian governments. First, a regimen of strict protection is afforded the wild Whoopers on their breeding and wintering grounds. Both governments provide periodic helicopter and airplane surveillance of the Whooper population at Wood Buffalo Park in northern Alberta during the summer, and at Aransas Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Texas during the winter. This constant vigilance minimizes unforeseen dan-

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feature . . .

Whooping Crane Conservation Ass.

by Loren Scott

Loren Scott is the Canadian representative of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association

Since the turn of the century the Whooping Crane has bordered on the brink of extinction. In 1941 their numbers reached an all-time low of only 15 birds. This spring the Whooper population increased to 84, which may be the greatest number attained during the last 75 years.

Interest and concern for the vanishing Whooping Crane has been evident for nearly 100 years. In fact, in the late 1800's scientists realizing that there were few Whooping Crane specimens in museums, went out and collected some of the last remaining birds, along with their eggs and young.

In 1922, the last known nesting site in Saskatchewan was located near Kerrobert. Despite several searches by land and air, the Whooping Crane's nesting grounds remained hidden in Canada's vast wilderness for the next 30 years.

Meanwhile, the great white cranes returned each fall to a small piece of land on the Gulf of Mexico. As public concern grew, a wintering range, the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, was established in 1937 to help protect the Whooping Crane. Since the establishment of the refuge, an annual census of the Whooping Crane population at Aransas has been recorded.

In 1954, a fire-fighting crew flying over Wood Buffalo National Park in the Northwest Territories happened upon a pair of Whooping Cranes with a chick. Thus ended the long and frustrating search for their nesting ground.

Individuals concerned about the plight of the Whooping Crane had been corresponding for a number of years, and working towards the common goal of preventing this magnificent bird from fading into oblivion.

In 1961, a handful of Whooping Crane enthusiasts met in Tucson, Arizona, and officially established the Whooping Crane Conservation Association.

The objectives of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association are: (1) to prevent the extinction of the Whooping Crane; (2) to establish and maintain a captive management program for the perpetuation of the species; (3) to promote greater harmony and unity of purpose among all organizations, institutions, and agencies working toward the protection, conservation, and production of this endangered bird; and (4) to collect and disseminate knowledge of this species to advocate and encourage public appreciation and understanding of the Whooping Crane's educational, scientific, aesthetic, and economic values.

W.C.C.A. is a non-profit association classified as an educational and scientific organization. Most of the funds are used for postage and printing to inform the public about Whooping Cranes. Officers and members attend meetings and forums at their own expense.

The Association publishes a quarterly newsletter "GRUS AMERICANA," and special reports and bulletins.

Since 1963, meetings have been held annually to offer an opportunity to all interested organizations, agencies and individuals to get together and discuss Whooping Crane management.

One of the initial objectives of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association was to establish and maintain a captive flock of these birds.

Despite the fact that Whooping Cranes nearly always lay two eggs, they very seldom raise two young. Invariably, the stronger and more aggressive of the two chicks kills or drives the weaker sibling away from the parent birds, where it soon becomes lost and perishes.

Fred Bard and other charter members of the Association saw an opportunity to capitalize on this unfortunate characteristic of Whooping Crane behavior. Because one egg in each Whooper nest is virtually wasted, they recommended to the governments of the United States and Canada that one egg be removed from each nest in the wild and hatched artificially in captivity.

This recommendation met considerable opposition from many individuals and organizations. However, after several years of continuous pressure and explanation of the captive Whooping

Crane program, the egg pick-up program was initiated in 1967 by the two governments. Today, as a result of the program, there are 20 Whooping Cranes at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Centre in Maryland.

Because Whooping Cranes do not breed in the wild until five to seven years old, one must have patience with the captive Whooper flock. Last year a major milestone was achieved at Patuxent, when one pair of Whooping Cranes produced three eggs. One egg hatched but the chick died several days later.

Another management program instigated by the Whooping Crane Conservation Association was to establish a second wild flock of Whoopers by placing eggs in the nests of Sandhill Cranes, which would hatch and raise the Whooper chicks as if they were their own progeny.

Rod Drewien, a biologist at the Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho, had been studying the behavior and movement of a Sandhill Crane population for several years. The egg transplant program was initiated in 1975. A total of 14 whooping crane eggs were collected from nests in Wood Buffalo National Park and flown to Idaho, where they were placed in selected Sandhill Crane nests.

Nine eggs hatched and six young were fledged by early September. Four of the young were observed in New Mexico throughout much of the winter. The remaining two young have not been sighted since the 1975 fall migration.

The removal of one Whooping Crane egg from each nest in Wood Buffalo has not retarded production in the wild. Ironically, more young were raised in the wild during the years when egg pick-up were conducted. Eggs were not picked up during 1973 and 1974 and the wild flock only produced two young each year. In 1975, when 14 eggs were collected, a total of eight young arrived at Aransas.

The Whooping Crane Conservation Association will continue to work with conservation organizations and government agencies in the unceasing struggle to save North America's tallest bird from extinction.

Probably no other bird has ever made such a remarkable recovery after their numbers had dwindled to a precarious low of 15 individuals. Each year this endangered species receives more and more attention from the interested public. The man on the street, the lady in the supermarket and the child in school have all heard about the Whooping Crane and they are all pulling for the continued survival of this great white bird, which they have only seen in newspaper pictures. Annually people from across two nations eagerly await the final year-end tally of Whooping Cranes.

The Whooping Crane which almost seems to defy extinction has become a symbol of conserva-

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Tex, ICF's only female Whooping Crane, strikes an elegant pose shortly after her arrival in Baraboo in April, 1976.

Photo by Ron Brayer

MILESTONES . . .

Whooper Update . . .

(Continued from page 1)

gers to the wild flock. In the spring of 1974, fowl cholera broke out along the Platte River in Nebraska where the Whoopers occasionally stop on their northward migration. Biologists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service chased off the handful of Whoopers that stopped on the Platte that spring and quite possibly prevented this disease from spreading into the Whooper population. This kind of protection has produced a slow rise in the numbers of wild Whoopers from a low of 15 birds in the early 1940's, to 47 Whoopers last winter. This summer, Canadian wildlife biologists report 12 young cranes at Wood Buffalo Park, indicating that 1976 was a very successful breeding season. Only time will tell how many of these youngsters will survive the 2500 mile migration to Aransas, Texas this fall.

A second Whooper program began in the late 1960's at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland. By taking one egg from wild Whooper nests containing two eggs, scientists produced a flock of approximately 20 Whoopers at the Maryland facility. These birds have recently begun to reproduce. Last spring a first Whooper chick, "Dawn," began a second generation of Whoopers at Patuxent, but later died of congenital defects. This year, a second chick hatched, "Blue-5," and, despite initial leg problems and a slow start, is still alive and growing well.

Finally, a third project began at Gray's Lake, Idaho in the spring of 1975. 14 eggs from wild Whoopers at Wood Buffalo Park were taken to a large wildlife refuge in southeastern Idaho and placed in the nests of wild Sandhill Cranes. The wild Sandhills detected no difference between Whooper eggs and their own, and subsequently hatched out and reared four Whooper chicks. These four birds are still alive and well and are currently scattered over Montana, Idaho, and Utah. This spring, 15 more Whooper eggs were flown to Gray's Lake from Wood Buffalo Park, and two eggs were added to these from Patuxent Whoopers. Of these 17 eggs, nine hatched and five chicks are still living with their Sandhill parents, according to current information.

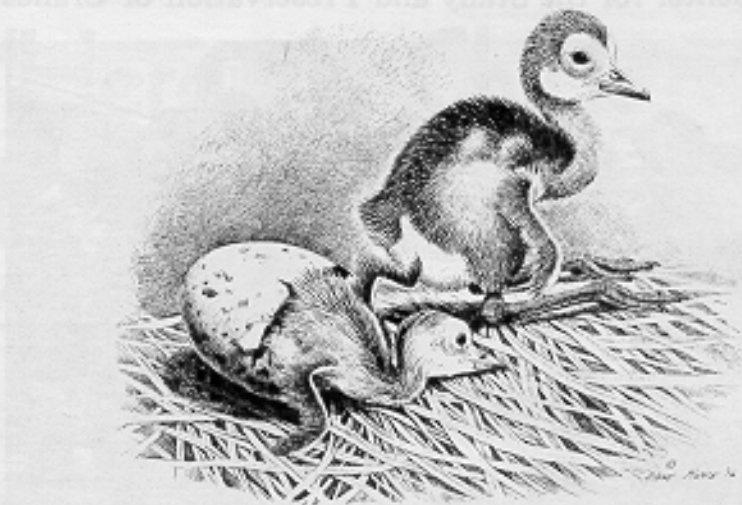
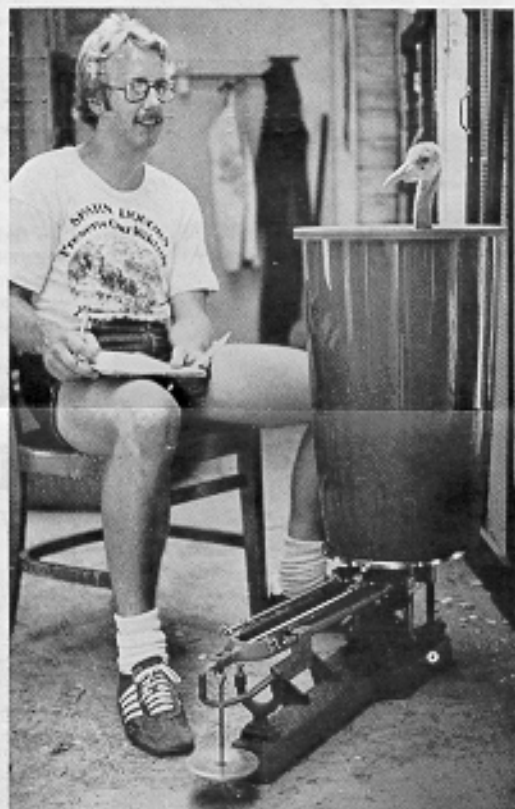
Today, three fronts, Wood Buffalo-Aransas, Patuxent, and Gray's Lake, exist in the fight to make the world safe for Whoopers, and all three are showing increasing success. We at ICF have high hopes of opening a fourth front with our two Whoopers, Tex and Tony. Some day offspring from Tex and Tony may be used to reestablish a population of Whoopers in Louisiana, similar to the one which disappeared in the 1940's.



Above: Todd Zantow discovers the tiny world of a crane chick. This chick is "Pookie," the first Hooded Crane ever hatched in captivity.

Photo by Lucille Thompson

Right: John Baldwin, a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, takes notes on the weight of Yumi, a young Japanese Crane.



Above: Whitenaped Crane Chicks — Pencil sketch by Diane Pierce

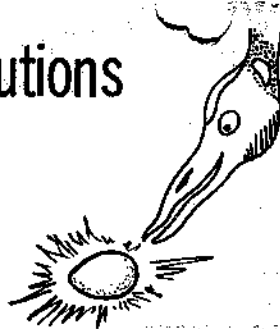
Left: Terry Quale, ICF's new Public Affairs Coordinator, has her hair pulled by a young Lesser Sandhill Crane.



Below: Barbara Brown, a graduate student from Ohio State, and John Baldwin give a young Lesser Sandhill Crane a bath on the lawns of ICF.



Contributions



2 JAN.
1976

Dear Sir: I am
a 1st Grader. I
am 7. I would
like to help
the cranes and
learn about



them. from,
Christopher
MacRae

MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

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MEMORIALS

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LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Mrs. William Simmons, Mrs. Lillian M. Lodgemonn.

Washington High School Becomes Life Member

By collecting tons of newspapers, instituting "dollar clubs," and enlisting the support of students and faculty of their school, the advanced biology class of Germantown's Washington High School under the direction of instructor Chuck Ritzenhaler raised over \$1,000.00 for the International Crane Foundation.

In a letter to ICF, Chuck and his students explained how the idea originally started as a joke after a class collection for the crane cause failed to raise even a dollar. The class then set a goal of \$1,000.00, but few believed that even \$25.00 could be raised.

After a slow start, the initiation of "dollar clubs" at the school started to net larger and larger amounts of money. Finally, over 350 students at Washington High School joined the project and \$500.00 was raised. The fund raising then stalled at little over \$500.00. Then someone suggested a paper drive. The response from the community was tremendous. 19 tons of paper were collected by the Washington students and the proceeds and further pledges by Germantown citizens pushed the total over \$1,000.00.

Washington High School is justifiably proud

of their accomplishment and challenges other high schools to match their donation. We at ICF are deeply grateful to Chuck, his students and the faculty and student bodies at Washington High School for their generosity. We join their challenge to Wisconsin's High Schools: WHO CAN MATCH WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL?

Whooper Conservation Ass.

(Continued from page 2)

tion not only in North America but around the world.

All members of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association receive the quarterly newsletter "GRUS AMERICANA" and other special bulletins as printed.

Membership fees are: Regular \$5.00; Sustaining \$25.00; and, Life \$100.00.

Membership dues and inquiries for further information should be directed to: Jerome Pratt, Secretary-Treasurer, Whooping Crane Conservation Association, 3000 Meadowlark Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona, U. S. A., 85635

OR

Loren Scott, Canadian Council, W. C. C. A., Box 995, Indian Head, Saskatchewan, Canada, SOG 2K0

International Crane Foundation

World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes



Washington High School students present a check for \$1000.00 to Ron Sauey, a director of ICF. Left to right: Sharon Schmidt, Ron Sauey, Sheri Pavelski, Dale Fritz, Cheryl Streicher, Greta Gleisner, John Nelson, Karmen Boshike, Chuck Ritzenhaler, Jeff Brown, Lynne Wirth and Debbie Pierce. Not pictured are Gigi Keller, Sue Hamilton, Marty Zirgibel, and Dennis Zusy.

Photo by Terry Jerusia Baraboo New Republic

The International Crane Foundation is a registered, publicly-supported, non-profit organization which is dedicated to the study and conservation of cranes throughout the world. In its organizational charter, the International Crane Foundation sets forth its five principal goals:

1. Research—to determine the biological attributes and requirements of cranes both in the wild and in captivity.
2. Conservation—to protect cranes and their habitats throughout the world.
3. Captive Propagation—to establish a species bank of rare cranes to guard against extinction.
4. Restocking—to reestablish cranes within former habitat wherever feasible
5. Education—to act as a disseminator of information on cranes to the people of the world.

The International Crane Foundation currently holds the world's most complete collection of captive cranes. These birds are used as breeding stock and as subjects for behavioral and physiological research. Tours of the Crane Foundation are welcomed but only on an appointment basis. Tours can be scheduled from May 15 until Nov. 15. Saturdays are the best days, but alternate days can be specially arranged on occasion. For more information, contact the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

The International Crane Foundation is completely supported by public donations. Memberships in the Foundation are the usual way of contributing to the organization. Information on memberships, bequests, and alternate ways of donating funds to the Crane Foundation can be obtained by writing directly to the International Crane Foundation, City View Road, Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913 or telephone: 608-356-3553.