

THE BROLGA BUGLE

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INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION
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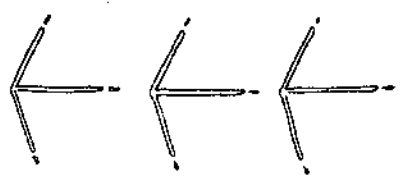
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International Crane Foundation
Baraboo, Wisconsin, USA

International Crane Foundation Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 1 — City View Road, Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913, U. S. A. — A Non-Profit Organization — February 1980

MAKING TRACKS - news of the foundation



- OCTOBER**
- 1 Kerry Hoffman, from the Cincinnati Zoo, starts work at ICF Aviculture Department.
 - 16 Semi-annual health check of ICF flock with National Wildlife Health Laboratory, Madison.
 - 20 ICF tours to Jasper Pulaski State Wildlife Area, Indiana, to see 12,000 plus migrating sandhill cranes.
 - 27 ICF annual meeting. Banquet speaker, Steve Nesbitt, crane researcher from Florida.
- NOVEMBER**
- 2 George Archibald arrives in Peking to meet with Chinese colleagues.
 - 8 Seed collecting for prairie restoration project ends for the year.
 - 11 ICF presents paper on the conservation of ibises at the World Conference III on breeding Endangered Species in captivity, San Diego.
 - 24 George Archibald arrives home after a 4 month round-the-world expedition to West-Germany, USSR, Japan, South Korea, and China.
- DECEMBER**
- 1 Board of Directors meeting in Milwaukee.
 - 15 Marge Winski, Education intern, finishes 4 month term at ICF.
 - 17 Siberian crane male, Tilliman, arrives on breeding loan from Vogelpark Walsrode, West Germany.
 - 19 Dr. Vasily Krinitsky of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture visits.
 - 25 91 wild whoopers counted on Christmas day with 76 at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, and 15 sandhill crane-reared whooping cranes wintering in New Mexico.
 - 26 ICF researchers Sharon Lantis and Kyoko Matsumoto leave for field work on ibises and cranes in Japan.



ICF patrons Wolf, Tilliman, and Uschi Brehm at home in the heart of their magnificent Vogelpark Walsrode, West Germany.

The Good Family Brehm

Wolf and Uschi Brehm are acclaimed to have the world's largest and most magnificent bird park in the world and since 1976 these founders and owners of Vogelpark Walsrode, have been among ICF's most prominent supporters. The bird park has spacious and magnificently planted aviaries in a pastoral setting about 30 kilometers east of Hanover in northeast West Germany.

In 1976 their collection of 11 species (whoopers, sandhills, black-necked, and brolgas missing), attracted the attention of ICF, particularly the three Siberian cranes. Two of the Siberians, considered a pair, were maintained in a public display area but they never bred. The third crane, a male imported to Europe from India before the First World War, was available for breeding loan to ICF. In autumn of 1976, Wolf was introduced to Philis, an aging female sent from the Philadelphia Zoo. Despite their ages, they paired and the next spring produced 12 eggs all of which were infertile due to Wolf's inability to produce what counted most. Philis died the next winter and was replaced by a younger female on loan from the Hirakawa Zoo, Japan. In 1978 and 1979 Hirakawa and Wolf produced 20 eggs but only one was fertile and the chick died just before hatching. In the meantime, the supposed pair at Walsrode turned out to be two males. Semen was collected from both individuals by Walsrode staff using artificial insemination techniques they had learned at ICF. Unfortunately the smaller of the two cranes became ill and died this past autumn leaving only the single and healthy male, Tilliman (named after three year old, Tilliman Brehm). To improve the chance for fertility of Siberian crane eggs produced at ICF in 1980, Tilliman arrived at ICF

December 17, 1979, through the gracious cooperation of the Brehm family and the Stiemke Foundation of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Not only have the Brehms sent rare birds to ICF, but they have provided financial aid, allowing ICF to hire two professional aviculturists in autumn of 1978. They also supported Ron Sauey's expedition to the IUCN meeting in Ashkhabad, USSR that year.

To partially return the kindness extended from Walsrode, ICF and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center sent the Vogelpark three species, the sandhill, the brolga, and the eastern sarus which previously were not represented in their collection. This year we hope to establish an ICF branch in West Germany, headquartered at the Vogelpark. The Siberian crane eggs and the 12 eastern white stork chicks slated for importation from the USSR this June, will be issued to ICF-Germany for management. In addition, financial contributions from German crane supporters can be issued to ICF-Germany with the contributing party receiving tax deductions.

The entire flock at ICF-USA wish to thank Wolf, Uschi and Tilliman Brehm for their constant support. We look forward to a long and productive relationship through our united efforts in conservation.

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. Saving cranes saves earth's vanishing wetlands.

USSR UPDATE

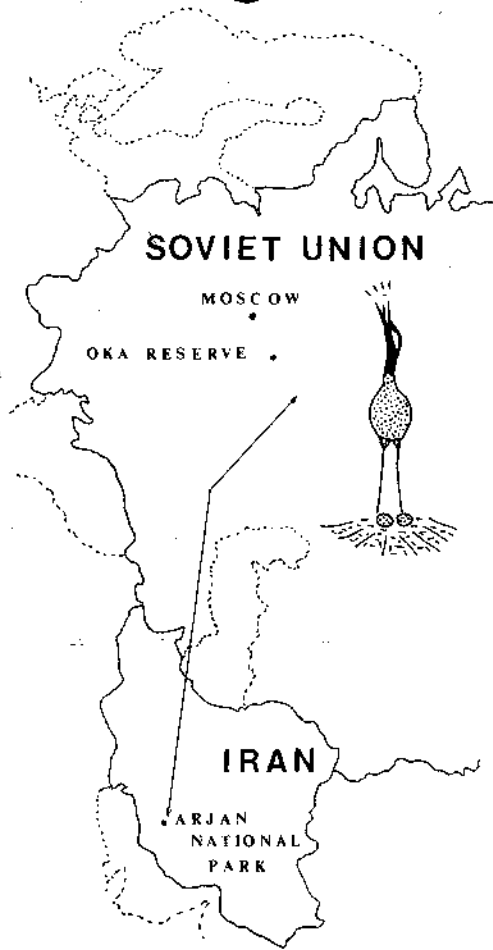
by George Archibald

In December, 1979, when ICF received a letter from our Indian colleague, Mr. Raj Singh, informing us that only 12 Siberian cranes had returned to the Ghana Sanctuary, the cooperative work between ICF and the Soviet Union assumed new urgency and significance. The population has decreased from probably 76 cranes in 1970 and the recent status of the few Siberian cranes wintering in Iran remains a mystery, as does the winter location of the 300 birds in southern China. ICF has a new and stronger resolve to coordinate conservation activities among Afghanistan, China, Iran, India, and the USSR, despite the discouraging political climates of recent weeks.

The past year witnessed an expansion of cooperative activities between ICF and the USSR due to the needs of the Siberian cranes. The increased work with this species is made possible by the close friendships developed between ICF and Soviet researchers over the past four years, and through the auspices of the USA-USSR Environment Agreement.

To recap briefly, in view of establishing a new and secure population of Siberian cranes in west Asia, a plan was advanced to use common cranes that nest northwest of the Caspian Sea, USSR, as foster parents to Siberian cranes hatched from eggs produced in captivity and substituted in the nests. The capture and marking of almost 200 common cranes wintering in the Arjan National Park, Iran, a magnificent wilderness area supporting excellent potential Siberian crane winter habitat, allowed the identification of the breeding locations of the marked cranes in the USSR. These marked common cranes were determined to lay their eggs in April, precisely in overlap with egg production of the captive Siberian cranes held at ICF, birds that were induced by artificial photoperiod manipulation to nest two months earlier than their arctic nesting cousins in the wild. The late nesting of the wild Siberian cranes made the egg transfer to wild common crane nests an impossibility since the common crane eggs hatch at least two weeks before the Siberian cranes lay. The success of using the common crane as a foster species for Siberian cranes rested on production of Siberian crane eggs in captivity. But in 1976 as this fact was realized, there were only a few old Siberian cranes in captivity.

To establish the "Species Bank" of Siberian cranes at ICF, a group that might eventually provide fertile eggs for the Iranian-tagged common cranes on their west Asia boreal breeding grounds, ICF received a total of seven fertile Siberian crane eggs in late June of 1977 and 1978 through the auspices of the USA-USSR Environment Agreement. All eggs hatched despite the 10,000 mile journey in a plywood box, warmed by a hot water bottle. Six beautiful, sub-adult Siberian cranes - Vladimir, Kyta, Aeroflot



The arrow represents a probable migration route of common cranes that breed in the USSR and winter in Iran's Arjan National Park.

(he hatched in transit), Eduard, Tanya, and Bazov now reside at ICF headquarters.

The success in hatching and rearing the Siberian crane eggs after their incredible journey across three continents and an ocean, precipitated a flow of interest in crane conservation in the USSR that resulted in visits by Soviet ornithologists and officials to Baraboo to see the captive breeding operation for themselves. Dr. Vladimir Flint, Director for Fauna Conservation of the Soviet Institute for Nature Conservation, and his superior, Dr. Vasily Krinitsky, who had respectively implemented and officiated the egg lifts, visited their Siberian cranes in the USA, and decided the Soviet Union should also have a captive crane propagation center, particularly since four endangered species of cranes, the Siberian, hooded, red-crowned (Japanese) and white-naped cranes, breed in the USSR. In 1978 ICF pledged to help the Soviets establish their own crane center, and that summer we sent a small electric incubator as a symbol of cooperation.

After a period of indecision as to the location of the crane center, the Soviets finally selected the Oka Reserve, about 280 miles southeast of Moscow, where, under the direction of Dr. Svyatoslavi Prikloński, the Reserve has developed a sterling reputation as an outstanding ornithological research center. The Reserve consists of predominantly forest and marsh on riparian lowlands along the Oka and one of her tributaries, and is home to the wisent, wild boar, lynx, wolf, capercaillie, black stork, and about 35 pairs of nesting common cranes, birds that might eventually be foster parents to Siberian cranes. The Iran-marked common cranes have been sighted near the Oka Reserve, although a marked crane has not yet been spotted within the Reserve.

During the spring of 1979, several buildings on the Reserve were transformed into facilities to hatch and rear cranes. Outdoor pens similar to those in which chicks are reared at ICF were constructed, and in April three common crane eggs were collected and hatched in the ICF incubator. Two chicks were reared. In late June, four Siberian crane eggs were collected in Yakutia

and transported to the crane center. All four hatched, but unfortunately only one chick named "George" survived. "Dezi," "Ron," and "Elizabeth" died from a strange illness that involved loss of appetite, lethargy, then death. I was honored to meet my namesake in August, 1979, during a work trip to the Oka Reserve, sponsored by the US Government and the Wildlife Preservation Trust International. I will forever cherish the unlimited warm hospitality extended to me during my five days with Drs. Flint, Prikloński, crane researcher Dr. Vladimir Pantchenko, and his staff, especially the four chick mamas and papas. I empathized totally with the problems involved in rearing cranes, particularly upon recalling our many setbacks at ICF in developing workable management programs.

At the conclusion of my tenure in the Soviet Union, we developed an outline of cooperative activities for 1980, a protocol by which ICF will provide five incubators, one food pelleting machine, and one pair each of Stanley, white-naped, and sandhill cranes to the Oka Reserve, while the Soviet side provides ICF with six more hatching eggs of the Siberian crane and 12 pre-fledged eastern white storks, a species that has been extirpated as a breeding resident from Japan and Korea in recent years. ICF's sister organizations have come to our aid in implementing the protocol with Vogelpark Walsrode providing the machinery and Stanley cranes, the New York Zoological Society the white-naped cranes, and the National Zoo the sandhill cranes. In addition, two aviculturists from the Oka Reserve hope to study at ICF during May of 1980 and in return ICF researchers hope to help the Soviets develop radio telemetry studies of common cranes in the Oka Reserve. Radio marking the common cranes will allow researchers to follow these cranes on their migration to wintering grounds in the Middle East. Perhaps the Oka birds winter near secure habitats that can provide excellent sanctuary for Siberian cranes. If so, Siberian crane eggs may eventually be transferred from the Oka Reserve aviaries "out the back door" into the common crane nests.

Although for many years Dr. Flint and his colleagues have studied the eastern population of Siberian cranes on their breeding grounds in Yakutia in eastern Siberia, the breeding ground of the almost-extinct western population was never found by ornithologists, although it was believed to lie near the mouth of the Ob river just east of the Ural mountains. This summer a group of tourists boating down a remote tributary of the Ob river, found a Siberian crane chick and eventually it ended up in Dr. Flint's Moscow apartment, then on to the Oka Reserve to join "George." "Saeuy," named after ICF's Ronald Saeuy, provides concrete proof of the exact location of the breeding grounds of the western population, a group now perhaps reduced to fewer than 20 birds. We hope our Soviet colleagues will conduct a comprehensive air survey in the upper Ob environs in 1980, locate the Siberian crane nests, and collect one egg from each two egg clutch, thereby establishing in the Soviet "Species Bank", genetic representation from the western population in lieu of the extirpation of that group through hunting in Afghanistan.

Time is running out for Siberian cranes. We hope 1980 will prove to be a bumper year for production of Siberian cranes at ICF, Siberian crane rearing from field-collected eggs at Vogelpark Walsrode and at the Oka Reserve, and that all the researchers from the East and West can continue to work in an atmosphere of enthusiastic cooperation which has been the case during the decade we leave behind.



George Archibald meets "George" Siberian crane at the Oka Reserve, USSR. — Photo by Eduard Nazarov



Soviet chick papas and their charges enjoy a midday dip in the Oka river.

CHINA OPEN TO ICF

by George Archibald

Black-necked cranes are endemic to the Tibetan Plateau of western China and they are the only species not represented in the ICF Species Bank. Red-crowned cranes breed in northeast China, are protected, increasing, and may include birds ICF has been observing for years in winter on the Korean DMZ. White-necked, hooded, common and demoiselle cranes winter in southern China as does the eastern population of the Siberian crane. China is home to seven of the world's 15 crane species and China is the key to saving the Siberian crane from extinction. Consequently, ICF's invitation to Beijing (Peking) from China's foremost ornithologist, Dr. Cheng Tso-hsin, perhaps marked a great leap forward in crane conservation in east Asia.

Our China entree in early November was fortuitously preceded in September by a meeting in Beijing of officials from the World Wildlife Fund and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Through associated negotiations, China joined IUCN, signed the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), and formed a six-man WWF-China Committee. Official channels had been opened and paved for cooperative crane conservation programs to be developed between ICF and the Beijing Institute of Zoology.

Dr. Cheng, Dr. Zhou Fu Chang (China's Siberian crane researcher), and interpreter Miss Wu kuo-lan, graciously hosted me to six days in Beijing and environs. We immersed into a jammed schedule that included a meeting and lecture at the Institute of Zoology, tour of the Museum of Natural History, meetings and filming at Beijing Zoo, and of course expeditions to the Great Wall, Ming Tombs, Beijing Opera, and the Summer Palace.

Dr. Qian Yen-wen, the Administrator of the Institute of Zoology, opening our meeting with an eloquent account of the history of crane conservation in China:

"Two thousand years ago The Emperor reared cranes in his palace and they were taught to dance to music. Even today the opera troupe does the crane dance. But our country is very big and very poor and



the number of cranes has decreased. After liberation the people paid attention to rare species of animals and in 1958 the crane was declared a first class protected bird. In the interim, cranes were captured for sale but now that has stopped.

"During the Cultural Revolution the Gang of Four were responsible for large wetland drainage projects producing more agricultural land at the cost of ruining the crane habitats. An American was even brought to China to teach farmers how best to drain their land in the northeast where the red-crowned cranes live. There also used to be many marshes in the lower Yangtze, particularly near Cheng Nei Island, but agricultural development drained most of those too. In the past decade, the Government called for more grain, the wetlands are drained and former dry lands are now irrigated. Consequently the climate in China changed slightly so people are more interested in the natural environment through fear. People are afraid of the punishment of nature. Now many people discuss the conflict between agricultural development and the environment.

"In 1974 the Ministry of Forestry organized persons to report on rare animals in the different provinces. These survey groups were to investigate areas formerly known to be rich in particular fauna, to evaluate the present status and then to get the region protected. In Heilungkaing Province of northeast China they investigated the breeding area of the red-crowned crane and established the Tsiling Crane Reserve including 600,000 acres of marshland inhabited by about 110 cranes, while in Tsinghai Province of western China they investigated the breeding biology of the black-necked crane. This winter they will again search for the wintering grounds of the Siberian cranes in the Yangtze river basin, a location that as yet has not been determined nor has the location of Japanese crested ibis been found in China."

While delighted to hear that the black-necked, red-crowned, and other four species of cranes were doing well, I was dismayed to discover that the wintering grounds of the Siberian cranes on the lower Yangtze had not been determined despite the winter 1978-79 search by Dr. Zhou. Siberian cranes require shallow wetlands, a habitat that is easily destroyed by agricultural development. China has a plan to deepen and rechannel the Yangtze river to improve agriculture, industry and transportation, a development that will undoubtedly mean the end of the as yet unknown winter wetlands of the Siberians. Recently the Chinese passed a new law making environmental impact assessments mandatory for all development projects. Consequently, if the cranes are located in advance of the development, their presence may weight the impact statement in favor of Yangtze river wetland conservation. Dr. Zhou continues his search for the rela-

tives of ICF's Vladimir, Kyta, Aeroftot, Eduard, Tanya, and Bazov.

Although I had been studying cranes since 1966, I had never seen the black-necked crane until the dawn of November 3, 1979, when I jogged in the darkness to the Beijing zoo, listened for unison calls and found the rare ones from Tibet. My doctoral studies at Cornell University had included a comparative study of the calls - the language - of cranes, information from which I project an evolutionary tree of the crane family. Only the black-necked crane's branch was missing. Several hours of observations of the four female cranes

(Continued on page 4)



September 1979 in Beijing, Sir Peter Scott, Chairman of the World Wildlife Fund, and member of the ICF Board of Advisors, signs a new conservation agreement with Mr. Chu Ge Ping of China's Environment Protection Office, thereby facilitating cooperative activities between conservationists outside and inside China.



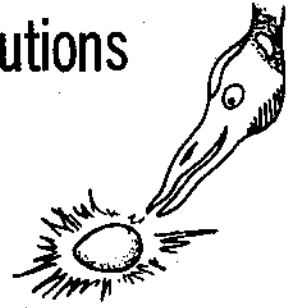
November 1979, Dr. Cheng Tso-hsin, Dr. George Archibald, Dr. Qian Yen-wen, Dr. Zhou Fu Chang, and Miss Wu kuo-lan, meet at the Beijing Institute of Zoology to discuss cooperative conservation programs on cranes and ibises.



Just Hatched! Black-necked cranes, China.

- Photo by Chinghai Plateau Institute of Biology.

Contributions



Due to the marvelous increase in members of ICF we are no longer able to list friend contributions. The following were received October through December, 1979.

Life Membership Contributions

Wolf Brehm, Mary Burke, John & Barbara Canfield, Cecil B. Carpenter, Owen & Anne Gromme, The Hubbard Foundation, Reinhardt H. Jahn, Dr. Donald Kindschi, Sam & Gene Johnson, McCormack Foundation, Ralph Moser, Lucile Palmaro, Willis Sullivan (Krause Foundation), John & Mary Wickhem (Almaden Trust), World Wildlife Fund.

Supporter Contributions

Baraboo National Bank, Charles Miller, New York Zoological Society, Mrs. John A. Stedman, Thorn Creek Audubon Society.

Associate Contributions

Donald Archibald, James P. Balding, Mr. & Mrs. Ira Baldwin, George de Belder, Michael & Janet Brandt, Roy & LaRae Carlson, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Carpenter, Catherine Cleary, Reed Coleman, Mrs. Thomas E. Coleman, Margaret & Chester Corson, John Henry Dick, Mr. & Mrs. P. J. Dickert, Guy A. Greenwell, Grootemaat Foundation, Industrial Coils, Myrtle Ingles, William Kieckhefer, Brian Knox, Mrs. Karl Paul Link, Sharon & Larry Lantis, Ken Paulow, David Pearson, Edith & Silas Peller, Dr. Philip G. Piper, Norman H. Quale, Donald Reinhoel, Gordon & Janet Renschler, David Rorick, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Gerard St. George, Mrs. Joseph A. Thomas, Jacques D. Vallier, Washington High School, Mrs. Howard F. Weiss, Michael John Weising, Robert & Mrs. Willson von Neumann, Winifred Woodmansee.

Contributions of Labor and Materials

Harold Allen, Libby Anderson, Badger Army Ammunition Plant, Baraboo News Republic, Harold Bessac, Gary Bjorge, Boy Scout Troop #77, Alan Christensen, Elaine Gasser, Flambeau Products, Milt Friend, Fran Hamill, Marion Hill, Sharon Lantis, Flo Leuders, Kate Lindsay, Marge Losch, Carey Jeffers, Kyoko Matsumoto, Dorothy Mudd, National Wildlife Health Lab., Boris Ouchakof, Neil Peterson, Portage Industries, Mike Putnam, Ron Rathsam, Shirley Russman, Rick Schneider, Gerald & Gladys Scott, Tom & Regina Shea, Washington High School, Marvin West-erfeldt, Milly Zantow.

Notes to Members

ICF tours are held from April 1 through mid December. All tours are "by appointment only" - even for members. A membership entitles all members of that family to a tour without charge. We can no longer extend a free invitation to guests and friends of the membership family. Club memberships do not entitle all the members of that club to free tours.

Rates for tours are still only \$1.50 for adults, and \$1.00 for students.

With increasing financial needs pressing on all of us, ICF has tried to hold its costs down and to insist that the fees to our members remain the same. This year we have been able to do that, with only the few changes in the guidelines for tours noted above. We appreciate your support and hope that you will be part of our communications network in spreading the word about cranes and ICF. Gift memberships are always welcome; or drop us a note with the name of a friend you think would like a brochure. Your support makes our work possible.



Mary Burke and red-crowned crane chicks on ICF lawns, August 1977.

— Photo by Eleanor Lewis.

Mary Burke, a Friend to Cranes

Mary Burke, philanthropist, conservationist, scholar and collector of art, is reported to own the world's foremost representation of Japanese art outside of Japan, art in which cranes are auspiciously depicted as symbols of long life and good luck. Mary wanted to see for herself these magnificent creatures that had inspired Japanese artists since times untold. Through discussions with her first-cousin-in-law, Dr. S. Dillon Ripley, President of the International Council for Bird Preservation, Mary discovered that the remnant population of 200 red-crowned cranes survived on Japan's last lowland frontier, Hokkaido. In the autumn of 1975 Mary visited the Crane Park near the city of Kushiro and saw the cranes for herself and was impressed by their artistic patternings and stature, sharp contrast in black, white and red, graceful movements and primeval calls. Mary developed a deep interest in crane conservation, especially when she saw how the crane marshes were being developed near Kushiro. Several months later, at a meeting of the Garden Club of America held in Minneapolis, while expressing her

interest in red-crowned cranes, Mary learned of the new organization near Baraboo, Wisconsin, dedicated to saving the cranes. In the spring of 1976 Mary made her first historic visit to ICF. Since then, Mary has been one of our foremost supporters and has introduced other supporters by bringing friends to ICF and by welcoming ICF staff to her homes in Cable, (Wisconsin), Manhattan, and Oyster Bay (Long Island). In 1978 Mary joined the ICF Board of Directors and ushered a fledgling organization through an awkward puberty. Mary is leaving the Board this year to attend to other responsibilities, in particular the administration of her private collection and museum, and membership on the Board of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Associates Board of the Smithsonian Institute. However, Mary is still an ardent supporter of cranes and a loyal friend of ICF. We look forward to many years of continued participation with this humorous, generous, and most gracious lady. Many, many thanks from the endangered flocks around the world, Mary.

CHINA OPEN TO ICF

(Continued from page 3)

at Beijing Zoo confirmed my guess that the black-necked crane is first cousin to the whooping crane, red-crowned crane, and common crane.

Dr. Cheng and I developed an ambitious protocol for cooperative activities in 1980. ICF has invited three or four Chinese ornithologists to visit ornithological research and conservation centers in Canada, Japan, and the USA for three months using ICF-Baraboo as base. Information gleaned can then be translated into conservation programs in China, not only for crane conservation but for other threatened groups such as bustards, ibis, storks, herons, waterfowl and pheasants many of which are endangered. We also proposed that 12 hatching eggs of the black-necked crane be collected in Chinghai Province and transported in the ICF portable incubator, from the Tibetan Plateau to central Wisconsin, as has so successfully been done with Siberian crane eggs from eastern Siberia.

In closing I wish to thank my Chinese colleagues for making my initial trip to China such a pleasant and productive experience. I am particularly grateful to the jovial and distinguished, Dr. Cheng, for his enthusiastic endorsement of ideas for cooperative work between ICF and the Institute of Zoology in assuring a safer future for endangered birds in China.



The stately black-necked crane on parade at Beijing Zoo.