

THE BROLGA BUGLE

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GROUND- BREAKING: The Move Is On

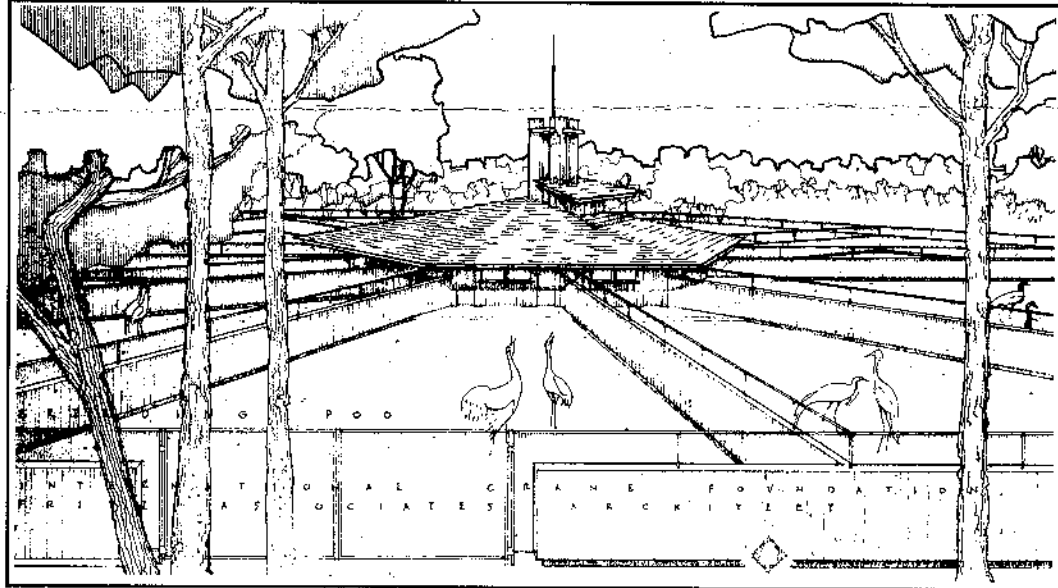
by George Archibald, Co-founder

Somewhat akin to an autumn gathering of Sandhill Cranes on the green pastures of central Wisconsin, the overcast noon of September 25 witnessed the flocking of 50 umbrellaed people to a field three miles south of Wisconsin Dells. The flock included ICF staff, Mary Wickhem and Jim Kuehn of ICF's Board of Directors, Dr. Jim Carpenter of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, a host of long-time ICF friends from Baraboo, Mr. Akao and Mrs. Sunaba from Japan, and a group of craftsmen including contractors, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, fencers, excavators, and architects.

The morning's rain abated for twenty minutes, allowing time for an historic ground breaking at the new site of the International Crane Foundation. A bulldozer cut the sod, cameras clicked, and Mary Wickhem and I explained the significance of the moment.

After months of planning, thousands of details crystalized into the construction of the Johnson Exhibit Pod on the 160-acre rolling landscape of ICF's future home. The generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Johnson of Racine, Wisconsin is supporting the project. Frank Lloyd Wright protege Herb Fritz developed the design and plans for the building. By May 1 of 1982, it will stand complete: the permanent home for 12 pairs of cranes of 12 species.

The Johnson Exhibit Pod will be a highlight of the 25-acre public section of the new site. It is a



circular structure, and will provide homes for ICF's star cranes, including Tex, the imprinted Whooper, Zhurka and Ueno, the prolific Red-crowned duo from Moscow and Tokyo, and Dr. and Mrs. Watson, our scandalous pair of Wattleds.

Following the ground breaking, the flock moved 100 yards east to the center of the future Crowned Crane Savanna exhibit, where Ron Sauey and I planted a nine year old burr oak tree. The tree represents the nine years ICF has been headquartered on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sauey of Baraboo. The burr oak, with its resilience against prairie fires and life span that hurries centuries, represents the ICF spirit, kindled in 1972, that we know will continue for generations.

Annual Report Available

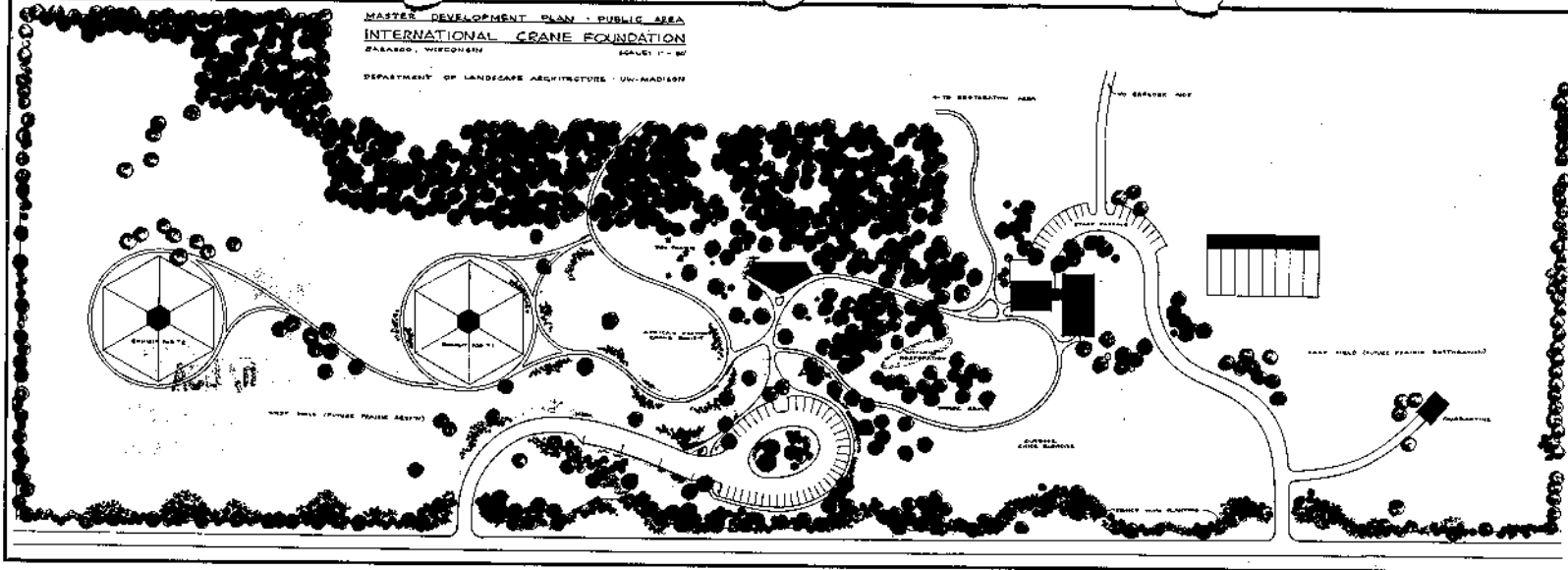
The Annual Report of the International Crane Foundation for 1980 was distributed at the Annual Meeting on September 26, 1981. We would like to make it available to all ICF members who are interested. Just send us a post card requesting the Annual Report, and we'll be happy to send you one immediately.



Ron Sauey, George Archibald, Mary Wickhem, Merlin Zitzner (Baraboo National Bank), and Ken Decker (Kendon Construction) look over the blueprints just before groundbreaking. photo by ICF



Ron Sauey, George Archibald, and Konrad Liegel plant a burr oak sapling at ICF's new site.



SITE PLAN COMPLETED

by Konrad Liegel, Site Planner

The recent ground-breaking at ICF's new property is the culmination of several years of site preparation and careful planning. Since the purchase of our new site in 1979, ICF staff and a team of volunteers have cleaned up the area by removing miles of barbed wire fences, hundreds of fence poles, and a dilapidated farm house.

Concurrently, landscape architect Darrel Morrison, architect Herb Fritz, and ICF staff have prepared a master site plan for the property that will both accommodate tens of thousands of annual visitors and create ideal conditions for breeding endangered cranes.

The site plan meets ICF's aesthetic, educational and scientific needs while utilizing sound environmental principles. ICF's 160-acre property consists of open and rolling hayfields, surrounded by oak woods, with two natural ponds. The Johnson Exhibit Pod, hatchery and rearing facility, quarantine building, winter shelter for open-air exhibit birds, and administration-education center will blend into these surroundings, complimenting the diverse and scenic topography. Wherever possible, we have made use of southern exposures and natural berms to minimize future energy consumption.

Unlike ICF's present property, where the layout of facilities prohibits drop-in visitors, appointments will eventually not be required at ICF's new property. This arrangement will permit thousands of additional visitors to tour ICF and better understand the plight of endangered species. Proceeds will also contribute substantially to operational needs.

Once on the site, visitors will see each of the crane species amid spacious natural landscapes of forest, savanna, prairie and marsh. They will also tour through the hatchery and chick-rearing facilities and the education center.

In addition, visitors will walk through, or view from the public area, a 65-acre restored ecosystem of wetlands, prairies, oak savannas, and forest, capped by the presence of Sandhill Cranes. ICF can utilize this area to teach the importance of habitat preservation as the Foundation's foremost goal, followed by captive breeding as an option for survival.

The panoramic restored area separates the public section, where visitors are welcome, from propagation activities. The breeding area, at the north end of the property, provides the space and privacy required to intensively breed cranes in captivity.

While the plans for development of the property were being formulated, ICF's Ecosystem Restoration Program began planting prairie in the native plant restoration area. As Bugle readers will recall, ICF staff and volunteers planted one and a half acres of prairie in 1980. The long, drooping heads of wild

rye, an early-successional prairie grass, now dominate the area and provide protection for the slower growing prairie grasses and forbs. Of the 84 prairie species planted, 45 have already shown up in our biannual prairie counts.

This year was an important one in our efforts to restore native plant communities. In addition to a four-acre spring planting in the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation-sponsored "Federation Fields Prairie," ICF student researchers Margie Patlak and Catherine Young performed detailed site analyses of the two-acre Owen Gromme Marsh and the fifteen-acre Walter Scott Oak Forest. Margie will be continuing her studies next summer as part of her Master's Thesis work in Land Resources Management.

Meanwhile, ICF intern researchers Eric Espe and Tim Helke utilized selective cutting, treatment of problem exotics such as black locust with herbicides, and introduction of appropriate ground-layer species to transform ICF's brushy hillsides into savanna and prairie.

And recently, we've turned our attention to landscaping the visitor area. This fall student researchers Kent Taylor and Beth Baechler are conducting baseline surveys of a grazed woodlot and a sandy knoll adjacent to the future location of ICF's administration-education center. Their studies will be utilized this winter by University of Wisconsin-Madison landscape architecture students, who will prepare planting designs for the public area under the guidance of Professor Darrel Morrison.

In an era when maintaining ornamental or special purpose plantings means increasingly high costs and excessive energy consumption, the use of beautiful and self-maintaining native species makes sense. With blooming prairies, breeding cranes, and energy-efficient buildings in place, ICF's new site will be a showcase of environmental concern.



Konrad Liegel and Margie Patlak plan the Owen Gromme Marsh Restoration.
 photo by ICF



ICF's Konrad Liegel (left) ends a day of consultation with professors Evelyn Howell and Darrel Morrison.
 photo by ICF



University of Wisconsin-Madison landscape architecture students head home after a long day's work at ICF's new property.
 photo by ICF

Report From Russia

by Scott Freeman,
Education Coordinator

In April of 1980 the Soviet Union's Working Group on Cranes convened in a meeting of ornithologists, conservationists, and government officials at Moscow State University. By August of 1980 that group had established a thriving flock of captive Siberian Cranes at the Oka State Nature Reserve. And now, just a year later, the team has produced a key research find that will help secure the future of the Siberian Crane, the "snow wreath" — one of the world's most endangered migratory birds.

The discovery, recently reported by Dr. Vladimir Flint, ICF's close friend and colleague from Moscow, is the capstone to recent research and conservation breakthroughs in China, India, and Iran. Communication and cooperation among these countries, essential to the survival of this critically endangered species, has been outstanding.

Recently several questions have haunted efforts to preserve Siberian Cranes in the wild. Does the snow wreath still exist in Iran? Can the cranes successfully run the gauntlet of migration through Afghanistan to India? Can the wintering grounds in India be protected effectively? Where do the Siberians winter in China, and how many of them are there? And finally, where does the western flock breed?

By April of this year our colleagues in Iran, India, and China had answers for the first four questions. Sixteen Siberian Cranes hung on in Iran, thirty-four birds made it through Afghanistan, the wintering area in India was designated a National Reserve, and Chinese researchers located one hundred Siberians on marshes near the Yangtze River.

But where does the western flock nest? The question was put to the Soviet team, but until a few weeks ago they had only the hint of an answer. Still, it was a strong hint, obtained in the most unusual way imaginable.

For back in the summer of 1978, a group of tourists floating down the Ob River in the Soviet Union had found a long-legged bird standing on a sandbar. It was a chick, and it couldn't fly. The tourists picked the bird up, and later gave it to one of the local villagers. The bird spent the winter in the crawl space under the villager's house, sharing living quarters and fish scraps with a pack of Husky sled dogs.

Then in the late fall of 1978, Dr. Flint in Moscow heard that a "crane-like bird" had been picked up near the Ob River. Could it be a Siberian Crane from the western population? Flint immediately sent biologist Sasha Sorokin north to pick up the chick. Sasha flew up to the village, and in the calm before a threatening snowstorm one of the villagers drove a motorbike out to meet the plane. The bird bulged from under his coat. The chick's head popped out, and Sasha whooped with joy — it was a Siberian Crane.

Back in Flint's Moscow apartment, the chick endured three baths to rid it of the putrid smell of bad fish. By fall of 1980, when ICF's George Archibald saw "Sauey" (named after ICF Co-founder Ron Sauey) at the Oka State Nature Reserve's Rare Crane Breeding Center, the chick had grown a glorious new set of clean feathers.

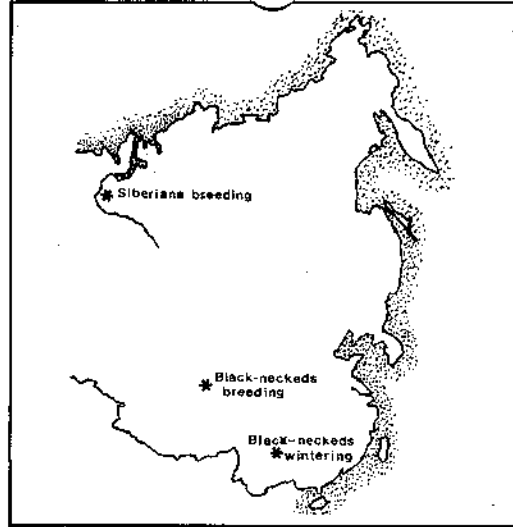
This summer Sasha Sorokin flew north once again. Not to recover an ill-smelling crane chick this time, but to perform aerial surveys and locate the breeding grounds of the western Siberian Crane flock. The breeding territories had to be near the Ob River sandbar where Sauey had been found.

In September we opened a letter from Dr. Flint: "We have good news! Sasha Sorokin found Siberians in Lower Ob region. He discovered 8 breeding pairs on the river Kunevat, the right tributary of the Ob River, not far to the place where our Sauey was taken."

We were elated! And Flint went on: "Sasha brought 3 eggs: 1 infertile, 1 died, but 1 hatched! Now we have the second crane from the Ob population. The name of the chick is Julius."

Sauey and Julius are important birds. If the western flock of Siberian Cranes is wiped out in Iran and Afghanistan, Sauey and Julius will be the sole remaining genetic representatives of that population.

In addition to the breakthrough in Siberian Crane research, the Soviet group is determined to



Locations of the discoveries reported on this page.



Dr. Liao Yen Ya at a Black-necked Crane nest.

initiate conservation measures for Red-crowned Cranes. In the wild, the best estimates now show no more than 500-600 Red-crowns remaining. In 1980 a total of 45 breeding pairs were located in the USSR at several locations. But of these pairs, only six were reported with young.

A long and discouraging list of adversaries face the Red-crowns each breeding season: rampant burning of marshes, illegal hunting, inadequate acreages under preserve status, and inadequately protected preserves. The Soviet Working Group on Cranes is tackling the problems head-on. The team's members are working to implement regular and standardized censuses, expand existing preserves and create new ones, crack down on poachers, and intensify the campaign against burning.

International cooperation is vital to the preservation of migratory cranes. The work of the USSR's inspired scientists and policy-makers, complemented by the work of colleagues in North and South Korea, China, Japan, and India, lifts hopes for saving the Red-crowned and Siberian Cranes: two of our planet's greatest treasures.



Sasha Sorokin and Sauey, beaking to beak in the Moscow apartment where Sauey had its first bath.

CHINA UPDATE

by Kent Taylor, Education Intern

For years researchers at the Zoological Institute of the Chinese Academy of Science have surveyed small numbers of Black-necked Cranes on their breeding grounds on the Tsinghai Plateau of northern China. Until recently, however, the whereabouts of their wintering grounds were not known.

On the frosty morning of December 12, 1979, three Chinese ornithologists — Zhou Fu Zhang, Ding Wen Ling, and Wang Zi Yu — huddled at the edge of an ancient marshland known as the Sea of Grass. This gem of the Yun Kwei Plateau sits a mile and a half above sea level amidst some of the most beautiful mountain peaks in the world.

The scientists awaited the annual arrival of nearly 1900 Common Cranes that loaf, feed and preen in the Sea of Grass over the winter months. Common Cranes are a familiar sight in the Kweichow Province, but on this particular morning they were joined by some unanticipated arrivals.

Loud bugling calls announced the entrance of 600 Common Cranes at dawn. Then amid the gray mass of the Commons' drab winter plumage the Chinese team spotted several jet black specks, against a pale backdrop of feathers and snow. They were Black-necked Cranes, better known to the locals as "yan-e" or "blackheaded." The researchers counted a total of 52, accounting for 7% of the entire mixed flock. There, in the Sea of Grass, the Black-necked Cranes foraged peacefully alongside their distantly related cousins, the Common Cranes, for several months during the winter.

The Chinese team immediately began working on conservation problems in the Kweichow Province. They persuaded local officials to try and eliminate poaching, endorsed plans for restoring decimated wetlands in the Sea of Grass, and recommended aerial surveys to monitor the Black-necked's status.

While Chinese ornithologists are forging ahead with research on wild Black-neckeds and protection of their habitats, in recent weeks negotiations have begun in order to develop a captive breeding program for this endangered species.

ICF has been working on an exciting proposal with long-time friend Dr. Tso-hsin Cheng of the Academy of Sciences in Beijing. The plan is to transport 12 Black-necked Crane eggs from nests in Tibet to ICF's incubators. Dr. Liao Yen Ya, a dynamic conservationist and Deputy Director of the Zining Zoo, has been studying the Black-neckeds near Lake Koknor of Tsinghai Province, where the famous Russian explorer Przewalski first discovered the species in the 1890's. The nests Dr. Liao has identified may eventually hold eggs which will be picked up and transported to Baraboo.

China has the distinction of harboring seven of the world's 15 species of cranes. The valuable work of Chinese researchers, and their loyal correspondence with ICF, have helped nurture both friendly relations and tremendous progress in understanding the predicament of endangered species.

FLIGHT FROM EXTINCTION

The Bottom Line

by Alice D'Alessio,
Development Coordinator

We're all preening and trumpeting about our Wisconsin television debut this month! On Thanksgiving (November 26) at 7 p.m. Wisconsin Public Television will broadcast *Flight From Extinction*, a half-hour documentary on the work of the International Crane Foundation. The stars are — you guessed it — our rare and beautiful feathered flock. In supporting roles are Co-founders George Archibald and Ron Sauey, explaining our far-reaching program; guest appearances by staff and friends.

Flight From Extinction was filmed on location all over the world — the marshes of Hokkaido, the Siberian tundra, the Bharatpur Sanctuary in India — as well as crane-congregating areas in this country such as the Jasper-Pulaski, Aransas, Grays Lake and Bosque del Apache refuges. Of course there's a nice

sequence on ICF headquarters in Baraboo, and some marvelous footage of wild Sandhills in our Wisconsin wetlands.

The documentary was produced by Metabasis Films, an independent Madison filmmaker, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Educational Television Network. Additional funding was provided by the Johnson's Wax Fund, Inc., Japan Airlines, Home Mutual Insurance Company of Appleton, the Central Educational Network, and Priscilla and Bill Chester of Milwaukee.

We have high hopes that *Flight From Extinction* will be selected by the Public Broadcasting Service for national broadcast early in 1982. We'll keep you posted on the date. An agreement with an independent distributor will make the film available internationally as well.

As an additional treat for friends and press, we are arranging special previews of the film at several locations around the state. Watch your local newspaper for the time and place of the premiere in your area.

Awareness — support — preservation: they all tie together. Getting our message to the broadest possible audience has always been a goal of ICF; what better means than public television?

For all of you in Wisconsin, tell your friends to watch *Flight From Extinction* on Thanksgiving, on one of the stations of the Wisconsin Educational Television Network. Watch your local TV guide for repeats on the following days. It's one half hour of television we know you'll enjoy!

Editor's note: the beautiful graphic you see above, which is being used in publicity for the film, was donated by Madison, Wisconsin physician and artist Larry Lantis.

THE WISH LIST

A sincere thanks to those avid Wish List readers who answered last issue's requests. Jean Tobin and Clara Sodke pitched in with shovels, Eleanor Zulauf, John and Barbara Canfield, and Eric Rothstein each organized the donation of much-needed file cabinets, Christopher Clappitt, Leonie Vrtiliek, Lucille Thompson, and Theresa Korzendorfer contributed a lens adapter for our camera and darkroom supplies (Charles and Nina Bradley of Baraboo are most generously donating use of their darkroom to ICF), Gertrude Weaver sent two splendid garbage cans for mixing concoctions of prairie seeds, and Chuck Ritzenthaler's dynamic crew of students at Germantown High School funded a tape recorder, wheelbarrow, and box of photographic paper.

Now we wish we may and wish we might:

see our new but mightily growing student scholarship fund grow a little more (dividends from this endowment will provide living expenses for student interns at ICF);

ask you all to browse through the Christmas gift flyer which accompanies this *Bugle*;

send all of you our very warmest wishes for a holiday season full of peace and good cheer, with our sincere hopes for a blessed New Year.

Errata

Cheri Rinnan, chick mama extraordinaire, was inadvertently left out of the non-monetary contributions credits last issue. Apologies to Cheri for the omission, and compliments to her for a very much appreciated service to ICF.

Madison Volunteers

HELP! Madison volunteers needed to help with ICF membership mailing! Call Alice D'Alessio at 271-7773. Thank you.

1981 Breeding Success

by Lisa Hartman, Aviculturist

Autumn marks the close of summer and the close of another prolific breeding season for ICF's cranes. The transition, however, does not mark a pause in the work of ICF's staff and volunteers. Every one of the 25 chicks hatched and reared this season still requires daily care and attention. The northern species — Red-crowned, White-naped, Sandhill, and Siberians hatched May through July — all fledged in the latter part of the summer. In August and September our incubators were busy hatching the southern species (Stanley and Eastern Sarus), and our chick mamas busily reared chicks through October.

The 1981 breeding season was by far the most successful in ICF's history. Healthy adult birds and new techniques in incubation and rearing produced dividends. Two beautiful new incubators, a gift from long-time ICF friend Evelyn Steenbock of Madison, were also a tremendous asset.

ICF's only breeding pair of Eastern Sarus Cranes provided us with six healthy chicks. They stroll with dignity behind us as we lead them to and from the corral where they spend the day exercising, foraging and socializing with one another. The first two to hatch, Gavin and Smithie, already stand five feet tall!

Although in captivity it is handy to work with cranes who grow accustomed to people, if captive-bred birds are ever to survive in the wild they must be instinctively wary of human beings. In keeping with our goal of restocking wild crane populations, it is imperative for us to develop techniques to raise chicks with a minimum of human contact.

This summer a preliminary experimental attempt to raise chicks in visual isolation from people resulted in two semi-wild Stanley Cranes named Dr. Livingston and I. Presume. They were taught to eat and drink from the bill of a crane puppet designed by Baraboo artist and teacher Ted Hegley.

Now the three foot tall chicks are extremely wary of humans, and I. Presume puts up a considerable fight when we catch it for banding and examination. We cannot be assured that they would survive in the wild, however, because although the Stanley chicks are afraid of people, their reproductive future is uncertain. The real test of this experiment will be when the birds become sexually mature. Will they pair bond with other Stanley Cranes and perform all the behaviors essential for reproduction and survival? Only time will tell.

PARENTS	HATCH DATE	NAME
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RED-CROWNED		
Zhurka/Ueno	May 14	Kuni
	May 24	Shigeta
	May 27	Ruth
	June 4	X*
	June 9	Marion
	June 13	Gerda

WHITE-NAPED		
Amazon/Mercury	May 27	Alpine
	May 29	Ronnie
	June 2	Walnut
	June 7	Howard
	June 15	Griggs
	June 17	Tieggs*
	June 28	Dori
	July 5	Koo
	July 8	Sakura
Ise/Casey	May 20	Curly
	May 23	Cheng
	July 1	Moon*
Butch/Bette	May 31	Claire*
	June 15	Schwartz*
	July 24	Frautschi*

SIBERIAN		
Hirakawa/Tilliman	June 4	Dushenka
	June 21	Y*

SANDHILL		
Gigio/Topo	June 16	Frenchie

STANLEY		
Priscilla/Killer	June 29	Dr. Livingston
	July 2	I. Presume

EASTERN SARUS		
Gloria/Painless	July 23	Gavin
	July 25	Smithie
	August 13	Pilai
	August 17	Atsuo
	September 2	Sam
	September 9	Hammerstrom
	September 22	Z*

*Died

Watch Us On TV!

Watch us on TV! *Flight From Extinction* at 7 p.m., Thanksgiving night, on your local Wisconsin public television station.

Contributions



Received July through September

Grants and Awards:

Badger Meter, Wolf Brehm, R. R. Donnelley and Sons, Inc., Alma Doten Trust, Goodman Brothers, Mary Livingston Griggs and Mary Griggs Burke Foundation, Inc., Helfaer Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Johnson, Oscar and Elsa Mayer Charitable Trust, Charles and Mary Nelson, New York Community Trust, Doris Swartz, Webcrafter-Frautschi, Inc., World Wildlife Fund.

Patron:

Ethel K. Allen, Mary Burke, Robert E. Carroll.

Sponsor:

Mr. and Mrs. John Stedman, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wiese, Dr. Margaret C. Winston.

Associate:

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