

THE ICF BUGLE

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World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes

A Summer Camp for Muraviovka Park

by Jim Harris,
Deputy Director

The weedy terrace edging Muraviovka wetland has never been a tourist destination. For the crane lover, though, the view west is pretty enough—in July, soft greens and the browns of last year's reeds circle pools of blue water. Distant glints of white reveal a pair of Red-crowned Cranes escorting their invisible chick. Beyond rise hills of China. But the view east reveals flat, vast fields of corn and soybeans remarkably like Illinois. This region has 70% of the cropland of far eastern Russia, and produces 80% of the soybeans for all Russia.

In July, even the farmer finds these plains uncomfortable: hot and humid, with abundant flies. Our little camp comprising the headquarters of Muraviovka Park had more than its share of flies and sun. Yet we were part of something remarkably new, teachers and children sowing a different seed on the Amur Plain.

Farmers live in five villages beside the wetland. Over decades, they have heard many promises never fulfilled. So they hardly believed that Sergei Smirenski and his companions, working for the Amur Program of the Socio-Ecological Union (SEU), would actually prepare camp facilities in time for the proposed Summer Nature Camp. And they never believed that a team of New Jersey teachers would arrive to work with local children and teachers.

We Americans arrived almost before the facilities had fully materialized, on a dusty bus spewing out endless baggage and nine smiling teachers. Our arrival would reaffirm that Muraviovka Park, the first private nature

reserve in Russia since 1917, really did serve people as well as birds. The park had been established in 1992 by SEU, in cooperation with the Tambovka District Government and the Wild Bird Society of Japan (see *ICF Bugle*, August 1993).

I don't know what the New Jersey teachers had expected, but I recalled the site from the previous year: rank, pathless, uninviting. Now there were two trim lines of tents for us, bigger tents for luggage, and a trailer with a broad overhanging roof; past the trees were a cook shelter, dining tent, and hot showers; in other directions, new pit toilets. The teachers unpacked eagerly, than ran about looking at cranes, irises, and yellow lilies.

Summer Camp begins

Summer Camp opened the next day, attended by a great crowd of curious farmers

and children, as well as the Deputy Governor, the District Administrator, and the Regional and District Committees for Nature Protection—all of whom had lent support to this venture.

Because Muraviovka Park is unique in Russia, no one knows what the park will become. Russia has no tradition of private conservation, and until very recently, conservation organizations like SEU did not exist. Muraviovka Park is different from Russia's magnificent governmental nature reserves that have strictly excluded local people. SEU intends to involve people in conservation rather than shut them out.

The Summer Camp, run by the New Jersey teachers together with Amur Program staff and local teachers, was the first public

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Kathy Prout (right) presents posters made by her New Jersey students to Russian children attending Summer Camp at Muraviovka Park. The Summer Camp and posters were part of an on-going exchange between New Jersey and Russian children. Natasha Feoktistova (second from left), a naturalist with Muraviovka Park, will be visiting the New Jersey schools and ICF in April. Photo by Jim Harris.

A Crane Conservation Revival in Cuba

by Xiomara Galvez and Antonio Perera

As far as we know, no other living creature shows the peculiar distribution pattern of the Sandhill Crane—Russia, North America and Cuba. By curious coincidence, these countries have been the actors of a political play, gambling with the survival of wildlife on the largest island of the West Indies.

Six subspecies of the Sandhill Crane are recognized. *Grus canadensis nesiotis*—the Cuban Sandhill Crane—lives at the southernmost extreme of the Sandhill's range, specifically on the island of Cuba, the Isle of Youth, and some other islets and keys of the Cuban Archipelago. Cuba is the only place in the Caribbean, or in Central and South America, where cranes are found.

In Cuba, the Sandhill is non-migratory and is also considered an endangered species. Although Sandhill populations have shown a reduction in number and range during the last 30 years, several new localities have been discovered. According to the literature, the Cuban Sandhill survives in four apparently separate populations: (1) white sand savannas in western Pinar del Rio Province, (2) white sand savannas and grasslands on the Isle of Youth, (3) savannas in the Zapata Swamp in the south central part of the country, and (4) the savannas of Lesca in Camaguey Province. In Zapata and the Isle of Youth, populations are partially protected in the wildlife refuges of Las Salinas and Los Indios, respectively. Each population is suspected to have about 30 individuals.

In the last five years, cranes have also been observed in the coastal swamps of north central Cuba (Cienaga de Las Guayaberas), in the savannas of Romano Key (north central part of the archipelago), and in the Cauto River Delta in the east. There are some additional unconfirmed records.

Despite being the largest bird in Cuba and the West Indies, the ecology of the Cuban Sandhill is almost unknown. Fortunately, since the Cuban Sandhill shares its habitat with other charismatic species—like the Cuban Parrot *Amazona leucocephala leucocephala* and the Cuban Parakeet *Aratinga euops*, which are the objects of current research and management projects—the crane is currently receiving some attention.

The authors are developing a research and management plan for conservation of the Cuban Sandhill Crane. The project objectives

are to determine: (1) the bird's status and present distribution, (2) the factors limiting its populations, (3) daily and seasonal activity patterns, and (4) feeding and reproductive behavior.

In June of 1994, during a meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico, Cuban specialists met George Archibald. This provided the final push that got the project started, beginning with the survey of status and distribution. Three months after this first meeting with the International Crane Foundation (ICF), Cuban and American experts met again, this time in Cuba, where we all took part in an aerial survey of selected localities where the crane survives.

Searching for the cranes

The survey began on the morning of October 18, 1994, when George Archibald, ICF Trustee Sam Evans, and the authors took off from Havana's Jose Marti International Airport in a little AN-2 biplane. Everything but the weather was planned. Our route started at the 1.24 million acre Zapata Swamp, recognized as the largest wetland in the West Indies. Since the last century, Zapata has been home to a crane population. The first day's flight continued to Las Guayaberas wetland, where a crane population had recently been found.

On the second day, Romano Key was the target. On the third day, we planned to end our survey at Los Indios Wildlife Refuge on the Isle of Youth, the largest of the 4,194 islands of the Cuban Archipelago.

The weather was great—not a cloud in the sky above Zapata Swamp. Once over the wetland, we turned a bit to the south, making circles around El Macio and Diego Perez keys, where Dr. Laurence Walkinshaw suspected the presence of cranes in 1953. But we couldn't find any birds in the little savanna patches among the mangrove forest. The

small amount of savanna suggests that, if cranes still use those islets, they do so accidentally.

Cranes sighted!

Our flight continued to Las Salinas Wildlife Refuge in the Zapata Swamp. Although cranes are often seen within the refuge in the so-called "Savanna of the Cranes," we don't know how many are living there.

From an altitude of 300 ft, we were glad to observe the good habitat for cranes in this protected area, although some negative impacts have been reported here. Wild pigs and dogs have been responsible for the decline or extinction of native animals, especially ground-nesting birds and reptiles.

We spotted two cranes dashing into a grove of trees that stood like an "island" in the savanna.

The Cuban Sandhill is not well known by the Cuban people because it has always lived in isolated places—in natural savannas usually associated with wetlands. Since almost 90% of Cuba was covered by forests at the beginning of the last century, few savannas originally existed. The cranes still survive in those natural savannas. But the cranes have not been able to colonize the man-made savannas and grasslands that have proliferated in Cuba during the last 200 years, leaving the country now with less than 20% forest cover.

Once we left Zapata Swamp, we continued our flight, enjoying the incredible beauty of the wild Cuban landscape. We flew over Cienfuegos Bay and later, over the Escambray Mountains, where the view of protected areas like Hanabanilla, El Naranjal, and Alturas de Fomento filled our senses, as we imagined the days when our forests were home to the magnificent but now extinct Cuban Macaw, and the perhaps still-living Ivory-billed



The Cuban-ICF team made an aerial survey in October of 1994, looking for the Cuban Sandhill Crane. Covering 600 miles of Cuba from west to east, they sighted cranes in three of the four locations visited. About 200 cranes are known to survive at seven locations.

Woodpecker.

After a short stop at the colonial city of Sancti Spiritus for fuel, we turned north, looking for Cayo Caguanes Nature Reserve, one of the first protected areas included in the National System. This system includes 73 protected areas with different levels of protection, ranging from strict protection (Nature Reserves and National Parks) to Multiple Use Areas. Together, they encompass 12% of Cuba.

The protected areas are very important for Cuba, because there has been extensive habitat destruction, and because Cuba harbors the greatest biodiversity in the West Indies. There are around 7,000 species of plants (51% of them endemic—found only in Cuba).

Surrounding the southern border of this reserve is Las Guayaberas Swamp, where a population of nesting cranes was recently discovered. This population is apparently one of the largest in the country, occupying excellent habitat: wide natural savannas bordered by grasslands used for cattle grazing. As we flew over, we saw seven cranes sharing the habitat with cattle, confirming that cranes and cattle can coexist. The survey of this area was particularly important, because the locality has never before been assessed for conservation purposes.

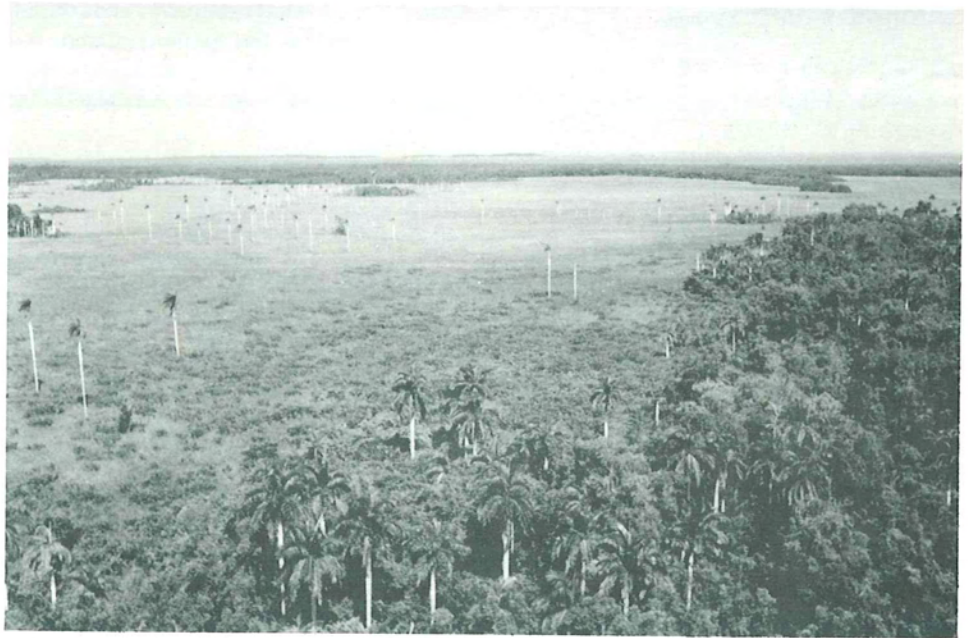
Our flight continued on to Cayo Coco (Ibis Key), an island with beautiful sandy beaches where a large resort is being developed. During the 60 mi flight between Cayo Caguanes and Cayo Coco, flying always over islands and estuaries, we saw several flocks of Caribbean Flamingos, each consisting of 300-400 individuals.

The following morning, we started early on our flight to Romano Key, where recent reports from forest guards indicated the presence of Sandhills. But although the weather was good for surveys and we observed appropriate habitat for cranes, we didn't see a single bird.

This key, with 350 square miles of area, has no human settlements. Since the last century, herds of wild horses have lived on the savannas. Actually, we don't know how long cranes have been living on Romano Key or in Las Guayaberas Swamp, due to the remoteness of these areas. They may have been living there for thousands of years, or may have recently colonized these areas.

In Los Indios Wildlife Refuge

In the central part of the Isle of Youth, close to La Siguanea Gulf, there are around 25,000 acres of white sand savannas, 10,000 of them protected in Los Indios Wildlife Refuge. The whole area includes marshes, coastal lagoons, mangrove forest and man-made



Although other subspecies of the Sandhill Crane nest principally in wetlands, the Cuban Sandhill nests on savannas, often dotted with palms like the ones at this location, Las Guayaberas Swamp. The relative scarcity of large land predators in Cuba makes this ecological difference possible.

grasslands for raising cattle. This is habitat for one of the most abundant and well-known crane populations of Cuba.

In contrast to other areas of Cuba, on the Isle of Youth cranes have been more associated with people. According to statements by the oldest members of a Japanese colony that settled here in the 1920s, cranes at that time accompanied people all day when plowing and doing field work. But now, cranes are a rare and shy bird—a consequence of habitat change that occurred on the Isle of Youth, largely in the course of developing citrus plantations. As a result, cranes have been banished to the remaining natural areas and grasslands with extensive cattle raising—they are only accidental in other places. We could see cranes feeding 13 to 16 ft from cows.

We flew over the savannas, swamps and lagoons for about 1.5 hours. Now we had two new passengers: the director of Los Indios Refuge Jorge Hernandez, and the forest guard Adolfo Pineiro. Adolfo, a charismatic and picturesque character, is responsible for the outstanding work being done in the wild areas of the Isle of Youth to save endangered species. In the early 1980s and on his own initiative, he began management activities to protect Cuban Parrots and, along with them, the cranes and other animals.

Good opportunities for crane conservation

During the three days spent on aerial survey, covering more than 600 miles of Cuba from east to west, we were able to confirm the presence of cranes in three of the four areas we visited. We were also able to see several areas that represent potential

habitat for cranes.

But equally important was the overview we obtained of the current state of the habitat, and the changes it is undergoing. The habitats we were especially interested in, savannas and wetlands, have been extensively transformed into grasslands for cattle grazing, drained to establish sugarcane plantations, or crossed by roads to connect mainland with keys where resorts are being developed.

Despite these harmful changes, we were able to demonstrate that good opportunities remain for crane conservation, both in the areas where cranes have lived for many years, as well as in places where they have recently been found.

Our field surveys were just the first step of a conservation project that will include, among other things, research on the crane's ecological requirements, population limiting factors, and genetics.

Until now, there have been no Cuban studies or management projects for the biggest Cuban bird, totaling about 200 individuals on the whole Cuban archipelago. But now the ideas, recommendations and plans developed with ICF will provide encouragement for a revival of crane conservation by the Cuban wildlife biology community.

We wish to thank the Brehm Fund for International Bird Conservation, which has pledged financial support for the crane research project in Cuba. We also wish to thank the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, which is supporting an exchange visit of the authors to the United States.

Summer Camp continued from page 1

program the park had offered. National television carried stories across Russia about our opening. What I remember best were the gifts sent by New Jersey children—a 25 ft long mural richly illustrated with wildlife by art classes from South River High School, t-shirts and pins designed by 9th-grader Bart Cooper, and laminated posters from Frank Antonides School each (poster with written messages and photographs taken by an individual student about his/her home and school and daily life).

The students also sent 32 disposable Kodak cameras. Each camera and one poster went to a Russian child, who took pictures of her village and home, then sent the camera back to America for processing, two prints each. One print remained with the New Jersey child, and one will be sent back to Russia, while the two children have become pen pals. The Russian children had never had such a chance, most had never even touched cameras. As they clustered around the American teachers, the late afternoon sun had a dreamlike quality.

Next morning, the VIPs and television cameras were gone. The children arrived about 10 a.m., half expecting we would have disappeared, too. But our teachers had everyone playing raucous games with a conservation theme. . . success depended on cooperation, while failure sent everyone laughing into piles on the grass, a great way to mix new acquaintances. Next, a scavenger hunt sent teams out combing the thickets and wetland edges.

Summer Camp lasted six more days. Not knowing what to expect, the Americans had brought bags and headfuls of ideas but no set plans. Each night, with our Russian teachers and the interpreters, we planned the next day. The first day brought 20 children for three hours, but more children came and stayed longer each day, until 60 would assemble.

New activities emerged daily. We tested water quality within the park, and compared results with impure water near a village. We seined the wetland for fish and leeches. We watched cranes, and a rainy day found us indoors with microscopes. The Russian teachers had their ideas. Too many children rob bird nests, so we set the children to making bird nests—hot, difficult work that would make anyone think before destroying another real nest.

On the later days, the children took action steps based upon their caring and new knowledge. They prepared a long colorful mural for New Jersey, and decorated cloth squares with wildlife for a quilt that would be assembled in New Jersey. Some of them

wrote letters to local newspapers and officials, with thanks for the Summer Camp and requests for support for conservation. In a country long dominated by fear, activism is a new skill.

We worked long hours, with evening visits to the villages for slide talks. I felt increasingly amazed by the teachers, both American and Russian, by their energy and creativity. I had never realized how much classroom teachers could offer of their experience and training in a field situation.

Teachers link students

Most especially, the teachers offered the warm wishes and eagerness of their students back home. We were the conduits for an intensity even greater than our own. Through us, students and schools in New Jersey connected to communities near the crane marshes of far eastern Russia. The key to our preparations had been the schools, involving hundreds of American students who had never had the chance to find a Russian friend. The artwork, exchanges, and gifts all came from the children. Students from Rutgers Preparatory School even earned a thousand dollars by selling t-shirts, to purchase a video player and slide projector for Muraviovka Park.

Sergei and our Russian colleagues felt the impact of our expedition more clearly than we did. Local people had harbored suspicions of this unprecedented park and the foreign involvement. They could not help thinking that Americans were really seeking some secret profit from the wetland. Our Summer Camp exploded such theories. The complaint instead became, "Why just one week?"

Our goal was to start a process of engagement between American and Russian schools. Exchanges (of letters, film, gifts) continue between New Jersey and Muraviovka. The Geraldine R. Dodge and Turner Foundations are sponsoring a visit of four Muraviovka educators to Wisconsin and New Jersey in April, 1995. The New Jersey teachers will host them for 12 days. In Wisconsin, the Russians will meet a new team of Wisconsin teachers who will travel to Muraviovka next summer. Russian and Wisconsin teachers will lead a second Summer Camp and develop new programs elsewhere in the Amur Region. Most exciting has been how this adventure has inspired more strength, leadership, and initiative in all of us than anybody expected. Like the local farmers, we underestimate what is possible.

I wish to thank the New Jersey teachers and their schools: Marcia Haller, South River High School; Tom Heilman, Voorhees High School; Bob Laura, Highland School; David Mazsa, Rutgers Preparatory School; Steve Michaelchuck, West Deptford High School; Kathy Prout, Frank Antonides School; Ed Stanley, Red Bank Middle School; Julie Stine, Hillside Middle School; and Sue Draxler, Monmouth County Park System. Our expedition was supported by a grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. ICF's work in the Amur Region is being funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Weeden Foundation, the Turner Foundation, and the Trust for Mutual Understanding. The 1995 Wisconsin teachers expedition is funded by the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation and co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAE).



Russian children and teachers consult during a scavenger hunt, on the second day of Summer Camp, with New Jersey naturalist Sue Draxler (center, blue shirt). Photo by Jim Harris.

ICF Committed to International Linkages

by Jim Harris,
Deputy Director

ICF is well known for its overseas programs. At the same time, our captive flock and Baraboo headquarters are highly popular with the visiting public. The experience of watching some of the rarest and most beautiful creatures on earth, and talking with people who care for them, has lasting impact.

One of the opportunities, and challenges, for growth at ICF has been the tension between our international mission and our local roots—how do we balance the two? This issue received careful discussion during a series of evaluation meetings undertaken by ICF during 1993. Staff and trustees affirmed that ICF's strong link between local action and global concern is unique for our midwest region. To build on that strength, we identified education of our midwestern public as one of four critical areas for program growth. ICF will expand its efforts to promote citizen action that helps resolve resource conflicts threatening people as well as cranes. ICF's mission gives us a special opportunity to activate our local audience as citizens of a global community.

A key task is to connect midwestern adults and children with international conservation. Since 1983, ICF has organized work trips to Asia and Africa, through which our members participate directly in field activities.

To involve children, we have organized art exchanges since 1988. American students have prepared drawings, posters, and other artwork about nature and also about American life at home and school. ICF members or staff have delivered the art to village schools near critical wetlands in Kenya, Vietnam, China, and Russia. The foreign children, astonished by such gifts, have responded by creating strikingly beautiful images of their own that fly back with ICF all the way to the American schools.

In this manner, over 6,000 children have traded art and friendship. The American children discover that their effort directly encourages children in foreign countries to love and protect cranes.

The teacher expeditions to Russia carry the process of involvement still further. In recent years, all Americans are listening with hope and fear to news of the tumultuous changes in Russia. Through their teachers, hundreds of children now have the opportunity to act. Artwork is just one of many tools.



Steve Michaelchuck (center) quickly lost his job of seining for fish to eager teachers and students from Russia. Photo by Jim Harris.

The actual three weeks of travel for the teachers is a culmination of long preparations—last year, the New Jersey teachers gathered six times for planning, and we have no count of their many discussions with students during classes and after school hours. Now, half a year later, the teachers, their students, and schools prepare to receive teachers from Muraviovka.

For me, the greatest lesson is that ICF can do nothing more effective than empowering teachers and children. Opening a channel, between Red Bank Middle School and Muraviovka Village, has inspired tremendous action and reaction.

Lessons learned in Russia are valuable back home. ICF will soon be involving school children near Briggsville (in central Wisconsin) directly in our Sandhill Crane research. ICF is studying habitat use by cranes where wetlands mix with farms, and where cranes eat crops. The children will experience our research, explore with families and neighbors the conflicts between cranes and farmers, and share their discoveries as a step toward solutions. The program will also involve foreign visitors to ICF, so that the children learn how their local problems are repeated around the world. We think the children can help find solutions.

The heart of these projects is not products, like the art that you can touch or see. Most important is the process of action—teachers and students addressing complex, real problems; people finding they have the power to make the world, here and across the globe, a better place. We cannot guess how far the process will take us.

Help from *Bugle* Readers Needed for "Wisconsin Teachers to Russia"

We hope that our "Wisconsin Teachers to Russia" program can happen every year. We are looking for volunteers who will help raise funds to support participation of local teachers from their communities.

Volunteers do not need any experience with fund raising. We just need your interest and energy, to visit community businesses and organizations and seek pledges of support. All donations will be tax deductible.

Please contact Elena Smirenski at ICF now if you are willing to help. Elena will send you fund raising materials to help your effort. These funds would be for a summer of 1996 expedition. We hope to receive all pledge cards by July 1, 1995, so that we can begin early to recruit and involve the teachers.

Full support for one teacher requires \$3,000, to cover all travel plus slides and other materials to use in the Wisconsin schools. If you raise at least \$1,500, ICF will do its best to match your amount and thus co-sponsor your local teacher. For each community, ICF will publicize the opportunity to all its schools and invite teacher applicants for the expedition. Participants will be selected by ICF and WAEE in fall 1995.

If you live outside Wisconsin or are unable to look for funds, we would be delighted to receive direct contributions, sent to ICF, for our teachers program.

Whooping Crane Festival in Texas

Whooping Cranes will be the stars of the Whooping Crane/Winter Bird Fest to be held in Fulton, Texas, from February 24 to 26, 1995. But the cast also includes many others of the more than 500 species of birds that have been sighted in the Rockport-Fulton area of the Gulf Coast.

This three-day festival will include daily boat tours past some of the busiest bird habitats in this area, guided birding tours and self-guided birding tours, and a bus trip to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. There will also be slide presentations and a selection of seminars given by nationally and internationally—renowned experts on birds, birding, habitat, and the conservation of Whoopers and other species.

Dr. George Archibald will be the keynote speaker on Friday at 3:30 p.m., talking about Cuba. Archibald speaks again on Saturday at 2:15 p.m. on the reintroduction of Whoopers to Florida, and on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. on the cranes of Russia. Other speakers include Mary Courville, President of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association; Michelle Setter of the Texas State Aquarium, speaking about bird rehabilitation; Gene Blacklock, noted author of several Texas field guides; Tom Stehn and Brent Giezantner of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Aransas National Wildlife Refuge; and others.

There will be a barbecue at the Refuge; an array of exhibits; refreshments; door prizes; and a student art exhibit, design competition, and essay contest.

For further information about accommodations and festival registration, call The Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber at (800) 242-0071.

THE ICF BUGLE is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation (ICF). Articles review ICF programs as well as crane research around the world.

Co-Founders: George Archibald
Ron Sauey

Editor: David Thompson

ICF offers memberships at the following annual rates:

Individual	\$20	Foreign	\$25
Family	\$30	Sponsor	\$500
Associate	\$100	Patron	\$1,000

ICF's Bird-A-Thon

by Bob Hallam,
Development Coordinator

Last year's Bird-a-thon raised \$12,000 for the Ron Sauey Conservation fund and for ICF operations here in Baraboo. Since 1989, the Bird-a-thon has raised over \$94,000. *Help us pass the \$100,000 mark in 1995!*

Please help the cranes by joining in the 1995 Bird-a-thon. If you are interested, please contact Bob Hallam. In March, he will mail you information about ICF's Seventh Annual Bird-a-thon and how you can help.

ICF Trip to Russia

Enjoy the wonders of Muraviovka Nature park described on pages 1 and 4! From July 5-15, friends of ICF will travel to the Far East of Russia. The cost of the trip is \$3,000, including a donation to ICF and round-trip air fare from Seattle on Alaska Airlines.

The trip includes two major cities on the Amur River, two extraordinary nature preserves (where we'll observe nesting cranes, storks, and other wildlife), two cruises on the Amur River, and travel on the world-famous Trans Siberian Express train. We'll experience the culture of Russia's Far East through visits with Russians at a town picnic, a reception with local leaders, meetings with businessmen, and a tea with retired couple in their Siberian-style home. We'll stop at two cultural museums, stay overnight at a former Pioneer Camp (now a "tourist resort"), and experience a real Russian bath with sauna, icy pool, and more.

Trip leaders are Dr. Sergei Smirenski, Dr. Yuri Darman, and ICF Trustee Tom Hoffman. Contact ICF for details.

Workshops at ICF

Once again, ICF is offering Special Saturday Workshops, including many new ones. There's no charge, except for the normal admission to the site for non-members. But please call Rose at (608) 356-9462 to reserve your space.

Volunteer Opportunities at ICF

Learn the skills necessary to be an ICF tour guide or chick parent in this three-session training program. **When:** Saturday, 9-1, April 1, 8, & 15. **Instructor:** ICF staff. No admission charge.

A Miniature World of Predator and Prey
Discover small wetland denizens with a microscope, and learn about their significance. Compare two wetlands: **When:** Saturday, 10a.m.-12 p.m., July 8. **Instructor:** Dorothy Boorse. **Special Instructions:** No

wading needed. Children OK.

Family Day with the Cranes

A variety of exciting, hands-on activities for children and their families. **When:** Saturday, drop in between 10 and 2, July 29. **Instructor:** ICF staff/volunteers. **Special Instructions:** Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring lunch for picnic area, if you like.

Whoopers Fly Again in Florida

Presentation about background and methods of reintroduction of Whooping Cranes to Florida. **When:** Saturday, 9-10, Aug. 26. **Instructor:** Marianne Wellington.

Whooping Crane Behavior

View Whoopers on display and hear stories about their behavior and personalities. **When:** Saturday, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Aug. 26. **Instructor:** Scott Swengel.

Playing Cupid to Cranes

Discover how ICF pairs Whoopers, and view videos of courtship behaviors. **When:** Saturday, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Aug. 26. **Instructor:** ICF staff.

Wild About Crane Costumes

Learn how ICF raises Whooper chicks for reintroduction to Florida. View chicks being raised in isolation on remote-controlled, closed-circuit TV. **When:** Saturday, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Aug. 26. **Instructor:** Marianne Wellington. Limit: 6 people.

What's Hatching at ICF

Hands-on activities reveal how ICF incubates and hatches chicks. **When:** Saturday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Sept. 30. **Instructor:** ICF staff.

Inside Crane City

An unusual chance to see ICF's breeding facility and meet crane personalities. **When:** Saturday, 2-3:30 p.m., Sept. 30. **Instructor:** ICF staff.

Sandhill Crane Count

Saturday, April 22 marks the Midwest Sandhill Crane Count. The 1995 count includes most of Wisconsin and parts of Illinois, Minnesota, and Michigan. To participate, watch for local announcements, or call Rob or Gordon at ICF.

AMOCO Whooping Crane Exhibit Opens

ICF members are cordially invited to attend the Opening Ceremony of the AMOCO Whooping Crane Exhibit on Saturday, May 27, 1995. The festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. with an introduction by ICF Director George Archibald. Special guests include Lawrence Fuller, CEO of AMOCO, Jay Hair, President of the National Wildlife Federation, and perhaps Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson. If you would like to attend the Opening Ceremony, please reserve your space by contacting Teresa at ICF by May 1.

Contributions

Received October through December, 1994



Lufthansa

ICF's Official Airline

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ICF's Artist in Residence, Victor Bakhtin, is now working in the basement of the Guest House on a 6 by 16 foot painting for the AMOCO Whooping Crane Exhibit. The painting shows Whooping Cranes in a pre-settlement Wisconsin landscape. Victor will also paint the ceiling of the Cudahy Theater this winter, to create a scene showing cranes on the Platte River in March. Center and right: Russians Elena Smirenski and Elena Smirnova. Photo by David Thompson.

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ICF's Guest House for Interns and Visitors

by David Thompson,
Education Director

ICF's newest building for staff—the Scott Guest House and Stedman Training Center—was completed in the spring of 1993. The ground floor is the Guest House, with a roomy kitchen, lovely dining and lounge area, and eight rooms—each with a private bath and two beds. On the lower level—the Stedman Training Center—are two classrooms, the Field Ecology Laboratory, and six offices.

Our building is a kitchen for gourmet foreign cooking, a lab for seed sorting, a suite of offices, an auditorium for slide shows of exotic places, an artist's studio, and a place for parties, pot-luck dinners, or just hanging out. The Guest House is set on a gentle hillside; to the north, restored prairie rolls away to Crane City. Nearby to the east are oak woods, with one especially large, open-grown oak at the edge.

The building fulfills ICF's growing space needs—for offices, classrooms, and a laboratory. But especially, it serves as a residence for our interns and foreign guests. Since the Guest House opened, 33 interns and 53 foreign guests have stayed there. This mix of American students and foreign colleagues has provided opportunities for people from different cultures to get to know one another.

Katy Green lived in the Guest House for nine months during 1994, while she served as ICF's Field Ecology Associate. Katy says the foreign colleagues staying at the guest house introduced her to a worldwide conservation community. It enlarged her perspective of the jobs she performed, and of conservation in general. "It's heartening to meet people with the same values, who do the same work. It's



ICF's new Scott International Guest House and Stedman Training Center sits beside ICF's prairie restoration. As home for ICF interns and foreign colleagues, the Guest House provides a place for different cultures to get acquainted. Photo by David Thompson.

neat to interact on a person-to-person basis. Usually, we make our own food, but sometimes we have group dinners, and push three or four tables together. Raj taught us to make a lot of Nepalese food, like dumplings."

Ryan Luster was a Field Ecology intern who stayed in the Guest House for six months. He said, "The interaction with foreign visitors was a definite highlight. We had dinner together, played games, and talked about our own country and theirs. When the Cambodians cooked, they often set off the fire alarms, because they cooked with a lot of hot oil. We got used to calling the security company and telling them it was an accident. Everyone laughed after these incidents. For interns living in the Guest House, ICF isn't just a place to work—it's also home."

Conservation can be hard work, with long hours and little recognition. But the friendships, perspectives, and bonds between

Baraboo and overseas—that start in the Guest House—provide many rewards for today, and friendly contacts for the future.

The Guest House is named after Gerald and Gladys Scott of Baraboo, and the Training Center after John and Patricia Stedman of Madison. Gerald Scott was the high school biology teacher of ICF co-founder, Ron Sauvey. The Scott home was always open to the ICF family; the Guest House helps us remember the hospitality of the Scotts and other people in Baraboo.

The Stedmans provided crucial support for prairie restoration at ICF headquarters. Mrs. Stedman, in honor of her husband, John, continues to nurture the development of our Field Ecology Department. Together, the Guest House and Training Center provide both a home and a stimulating environment for our staff and guests—from near and far.



International Crane Foundation

P.O. Box 447
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913-0447

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