

# Your 2007 Crane Count Results Are Enclosed!

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BARABOO WI PERMIT #179

International Crane Foundation  
E-11376 Shady Lane Road  
PO Box 447  
Baraboo, WI 53913-0447, USA



February 29, 2008

Dear Midwest Crane Counter,



The International Crane Foundation (ICF) is pleased to present the results of the 2007 Crane Count. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Midwest Crane Count took place on April 14. This program completely depends on your dedication and participation – we could not do it without you. Thanks to all participants, and especially the County Coordinators for all of their volunteer work to organize the Count in your area!

Enclosed you will find a map of the reporting counties throughout the Upper Midwest, and tables summarizing data from each one. The totals for counties seem to have been fairly consistent. This year participation was again over 3,000 volunteers.

We appreciate all of the time and effort you put into this count every year. Thank you for helping with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Crane Count. We look forward to you continuing to participate for many more years to come. If you are interested in receiving extra Crane Count decals for your car, please contact us. We will also be sending a few on to our coordinators so you can ask them as well.

To show our appreciation for the time and energy you put into the Crane Count, ICF is offering free admission for all crane counters to our site in Baraboo, Wisconsin during our 2008 season. Free admission will be granted to all individuals whose name(s) appear on the mailing label on the front of this letter. Simply cut out the free admission pass from the back page of the newsletter (your address label will be on the back). Present the pass upon arrival at our Visitor Center for your free admission (any accompanying guests who are not listed on the mailing label will be charged the standard admission fee). ICF is open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., April 15-October 31. Daily guided tours are available at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and on weekends only in April, May, September, and October. We hope you will visit us!

Remember, a lot of handy information about Crane Count can be found on the ICF website: [www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org). The easiest way of finding the Crane Count portion of the ICF website is by accessing the information at: [www.cranecount.org](http://www.cranecount.org)

Mark your calendars for the **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Midwest Crane Count on April 19, 2008**. Thank you once again for your dedication and hard work.

Sincerely,

Alyssa and Casey

Alyssa Rod, ICF Lead Naturalist; Casey Gutkowski, ICF Naturalist; [naturalists@savingcranes.org](mailto:naturalists@savingcranes.org)

# The Value of Your Efforts!

By Mike Engels, ICF Spatial Analyst

Participating in Crane Count requires getting up at the crack of dawn and stepping out into a cold, spring morning in the hope of catching a glimpse of or hearing calls from Sandhill Cranes. One might stop to ask, why is it important that I am doing this? For ICF, it is important for many reasons related to crane conservation.

Currently, ICF is in the process of digitizing the results of past Crane Counts and placing them into a spatial (map) context. This allows us to establish population trends by estimating the number of cranes in the state of Wisconsin (see figure 1). Currently, we have created estimates by grouping data together at the county level. While this is a relatively rough estimation, it provides general information on population trends and the relative abundance of cranes.

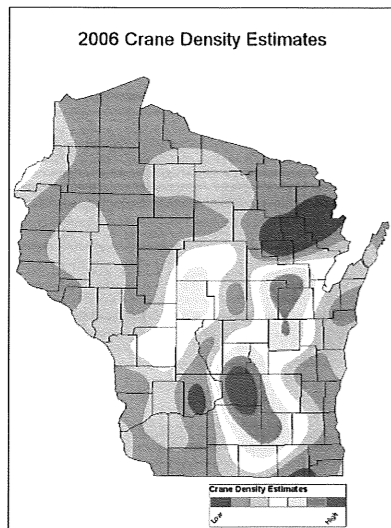


Figure 1: Wisconsin Crane Estimates

These results are also important because they assist with decisions about ongoing and newly developing ICF projects, and they help improve Crane Count data collection techniques.

One of ICF's on-going research projects studies the impact cranes are having on planted corn crops and the investigation of new, humane methods for deterring cranes from damaging corn. The population data obtained from Crane Count is used by ICF staff to identify where cranes and corn occur together. The ICF staff can then focus their limited resources for communicating to area corn growers more effectively.

ICF recently held a meeting with representatives from various utility and conservation groups to discuss and generate ideas for studying the impact power lines are having on cranes in the State of Wisconsin. Participants agreed that a model should be created to help identify areas that have a potential for crane power line collisions. The data collected by Crane Count volunteers was identified as an essential component to building such a model. By using the population data from the Crane Count and placing it on a map showing the locations of power lines in the state, ICF staff can assess the scope of the issue and allow for more efficient project development.

These are some examples of how important Crane Count volunteers are to crane conservation efforts. In the future, we hope that

# Thank You

from the ICF Crane Count Staff

The International Crane Foundation (ICF) would like to extend a warm greeting and thank-you to everyone involved with Crane Count 2007.

An extra special thank you is extended to the County Coordinators that are retiring from their duties this year. Several of you have dedicated many years to ensuring that the Crane Count experience is rewarding for both the volunteers in your area and ICF. It is YOU, the County Coordinators, that give ICF the ability to reach the thousands of people involved with Crane Count and maintain such a wide geographic range for the survey. Thank you for all the hard work you have done and for your gifts of time and talent.

With County Coordinator retirements come County Coordinator position openings, and we have already had several individuals step up to the challenge. We are extremely grateful to those of you who have taken this opportunity to further your contribution to Crane Count. ICF encourages all others who may be interested in coordinating a county anywhere throughout the five-state region to contact us by phone at 608.356.9462 extension 127 or by email at [naturalists@savingcranes.org](mailto:naturalists@savingcranes.org).

Thank you again to everyone and we look forward to working with you in 2008!



## ICF Free Admission Pass

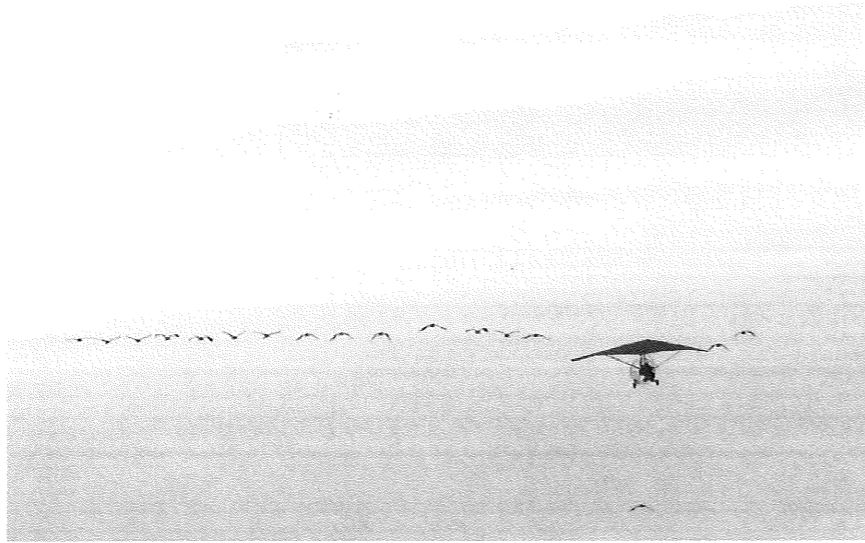
Thank you for making Crane Count 2007 possible!  
Present this certificate at the ICF Visitor Center for free admission to ICF any time during the 2008 season.

Valid to all crane counters whose names appear on the mailing label on the reverse side. Any accompanying guests who are not listed on the mailing label will be charged the standard admission fee.

ICF is open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., April 15-October 31. Daily guided tours are available at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and on weekends only in April, May, September, and October.

Thank you for your generous gift of time!

continued on a southerly migrate route landing in southwestern Arkansas. #46-07 was then captured and transported to the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Tennessee. She quickly integrated with the other Whooping Cranes and the thousands of Sandhill Cranes on the refuge. The group of six left later in the season from Necedah, but migrated at a great pace. They flew 210 miles on their first day, to southern Illinois. The birds were not in a safe location and they too, were captured and transported to the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. It is hoped the bird's remaining journey to Florida will be uneventful.



2007 Ultralight Migration in Russell County, KY.  
Photo by Joan Garland.

### Ultralight Reintroduction

Seventeen juvenile Whooping Cranes left from the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in central Wisconsin with four ultralight aircrafts for Florida on October 13, 2007. The birds flew quickly through the northern states, until weather slowed their fast pace. As the birds arrived in Kentucky, one juvenile (#33-07) strayed from the flock. A wide-ranging search was conducted to locate the lost bird, but a radio signal was nowhere to be found. After several days of searching, Sara Zimorski, ICF Aviculturist discovered the bird's signal, captured the bird and reunited the bird with the cohort.

Currently the seventeen Whooping Cranes continue flying southward and there are high hopes that the poor weather will stop being such an impediment to migration.

With the 2007 migration not yet completed, crane counters can still look forward to more updates on these beautiful birds. To stay ahead and become an expert on Whooping Crane migration, email ICF [cranes@savingcranes](mailto:cranes@savingcranes) and ask to receive the Whooping Crane email updates. These updates will allow Counters to not only impress their family and friends with their knowledge of Sandhill Cranes, but also provide information about one of the most historic conservation projects in the United States.

when the Crane Count data is converted to a digital format and placed into a spatial (map) context, these up-to-date maps will be available for Crane Count volunteers to use. Our vision is to one day create an interactive website module on which volunteers can look up past years results, sign up for a particular survey site, and input their observations directly into the Crane Count database from the ICF website! Although this is still at the "brainstorming" stage, the potential is there and the possibilities are being investigated. Stay tuned for future developments!

## 2007 Crane Crop Deterrent Update!

By Anne Lacy, ICF Crane Research Manager

In 2006, a non-toxic chemical named Avitec™ was made available to corn growers in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan to deter cranes from damaging newly germinating corn seeds. The chemical was again made available in 2007 (in both powder and liquid seed treatment form), for corn growers in these three states. ICF's Field Ecology Department is playing an integral role in helping to test this chemical for its effectiveness.

Data gathered by ICF in 2007 proves that Avitec™ is an effective deterrent to crane herbivory, and that the newly available liquid treatment ensures an efficacious amount of the chemical on each seed. As last season, we plotted Avitec™ sales against Crane Count results (figure 2). Again, most of the sales occurred in high-density crane areas; but sales overall were lower than 2006, and sales of the newly available liquid seed treatment were especially low. Our outreach communication goals for 2008 are to make corn growers in high crane density areas aware of the availability of Avitec™ and to continue our monitoring efforts to document its efficacy and ease of use in this agricultural context. Crane Counters are encouraged, when speaking to the media, to mention these efforts aimed at the prevention of

crop damage and to contact Anne Lacy, ICF Field Ecology Department, 608-356-9462 x146 [anne@savingcranes.org](mailto:anne@savingcranes.org).

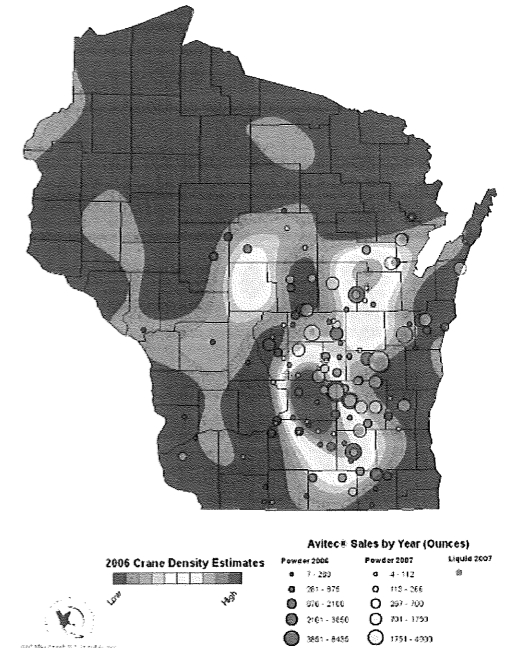


Figure 2. Avitec™ sales in 2006 and 2007 in Wisconsin, compared to the distribution of cranes calculated from the 2006 Annual Midwest Crane Count. Liquid Avitec™ covers 58.3 acres/gallon; 3.5 oz of powder Avitec™ covers 2.5 acres.

# Annual Midwest Crane Count 2007 Results

Pages 4-8 contain the results of Crane Count 2007 (this includes all of the data returned to ICF by December 31, 2007) are included.

## Tables

Pages 5 and 8 contain a table for each of the 5 Crane Count states (Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa.) The tables provide a county-by-county summary of 2007 Crane Count data. The number of cranes (seen or heard), the number of pairs (determined by unison calls heard), the number of sites, and number of observers, are reported.

## Map

Pages 6 and 7 contain a map of the five-state Crane Count area. The map illustrates total

crane sightings by county (how many cranes were seen or heard in each county during the official two-hour Crane Count period). Counties that participated in the Count are shown in varying shades of grey, depending upon how many cranes were observed.

The number of cranes observed or heard during Crane Count does not tell us precisely how many cranes are found in any given county. Factors such as weather conditions during the Count, number of sites counted, and number of counters has to be considered when we use Crane Count data to estimate crane population trends.

### 2007 Crane Count State Totals

State	Cranes	Pairs	Observers
Wisconsin	13,764	2,161	2,523
Michigan	362	68	235
Minnesota	204	44	53
Illinois	298	76	160
Iowa	34	5	41
<b>Total:</b>	<b>14,662</b>	<b>2,354</b>	<b>3,012</b>

# Update on the Eastern Migratory Flock of Whooping Cranes

By Casey Gutkowski, ICF Naturalist

Every year, the Conservation Education Department at the International Crane Foundation (ICF) receives many questions and requests from crane counters such as, "How are the Whooping Cranes?" "Did the Whooping Cranes migrate?" and "I want more information on Whooping Cranes." To keep you updated on the efforts to reestablish a migratory flock of Whooping Cranes in the eastern United States, I have provided a brief summary of events in 2007.

Currently there are 59 Whooping Cranes in the flock with an additional 24 birds being released during the fall/winter 2007-08. Information about the released birds is collected by ICF and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel during migration and throughout the year. This valuable data is used to evaluate the success of the program and improve future release efforts. We

occasionally intervene when birds are lost or in trouble.

## Direct Autumn Release

In 2005, ICF and the USFWS began to test an alternative release method to the ultralight reintroduction called Direct Autumn Release (DAR). Through this method, chicks are hatched and reared for a month at ICF and then transferred to the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. When the chicks are about five months old, they are released into the wild to join with older birds that have previously followed the ultralight aircraft on migration. In 2007, ten chicks were released using this method - a record number!

The ten chicks were separated into two groups - a group of 4 and a group of six. The group of four were the first to leave the refuge. Sadly, three of four birds were lost due to collisions with a small aircraft and a power line and mammalian predation. The single remaining bird #46-07,



6 DAR Birds in Illinois in Fall 2007. Photo courtesy of Chris Young The State Journal-Register.

# 2007 Crane Count Results By State and County

## Michigan

County	Cranes	Pairs	Sites	Observers
Alger	44	11	30	48
Allegan	20	1	1	2
Baraga	15	3	10	18
Cass	not available	not available	not available	not available
Clinton	5	1	2	2
Delta	30	7	8	15
Dickinson	29	8	11	13
Hillsdale	not available	not available	not available	not available
Houghton	45	9	22	36
Ingham	not available	not available	not available	not available
Iron	1	0	1	2
Jackson	not available	not available	not available	not available
Keweenaw	3	0	6	7
Lenawee	not available	not available	not available	not available
Marquette	24	8	9	14
Menominee	41	6	7	10
Ontonagon	16	4	20	32
Schoolcraft	17	4	9	9
Shiawasee	5	2	1	1
Washtenaw	67	4	15	26

## Minnesota

County	Cranes	Pairs	Sites	Observers
Anoka	44	20	2	2
Beltrami	2	1	1	1
Chisago	12	2	2	1
Dakota	not available	not available	not available	not available
Hennepin	3	0	11	11
Houston	29	9	8	10
Morrison	50	4	1	3
Polk	not available	not available	not available	not available
Ramsey	4	2	5	10
Roseau	0	0	1	2
Wabasha	60	6	11	13
Winona	not available	not available	not available	not available

## Illinois

County	Cranes	Pairs	Sites	Observers
Boone	3	0	2	3
Carroll	7	2	3	5
Cook	not available	not available	not available	not available
DuPage	4	1	2	4
Grundy	3	1	1	2
Jo Davies	not available	not available	not available	not available
Kane	25	5	12	17
Lake	63	17	24	45
La Salle	1	0	1	2
McHenry	89	21	21	32
Stephenson	27	10	11	21
Whiteside	3	1	2	3
Winnebago	73	18	15	26

## Iowa

County	Cranes	Pairs	Sites	Observers
Allamakee	not available	not available	not available	not available
Bremer	17	3	9	15
Buchanan	not available	not available	not available	not available
Butler	not available	not available	not available	not available
Chickasaw	not available	not available	not available	not available
Clinton	11	1	2	6
Greene	not available	not available	not available	not available
Hancock	0	0	7	7
Humboldt	not available	not available	not available	not available
Jackson	4	1	2	2
Johnson	0	0	1	2
Jones	not available	not available	not available	not available
Kossuth	not available	not available	not available	not available
Louisa	not available	not available	not available	not available
Polk	not available	not available	not available	not available
Scott	not available	not available	not available	not available
Tama	2	0	1	2
Winnebago	0	0	3	3
Winneshek	not available	not available	not available	not available
Worth	0	0	5	4
Wright	not available	not available	not available	not available

# 2007 Crane Count Results in the State of Wisconsin By County

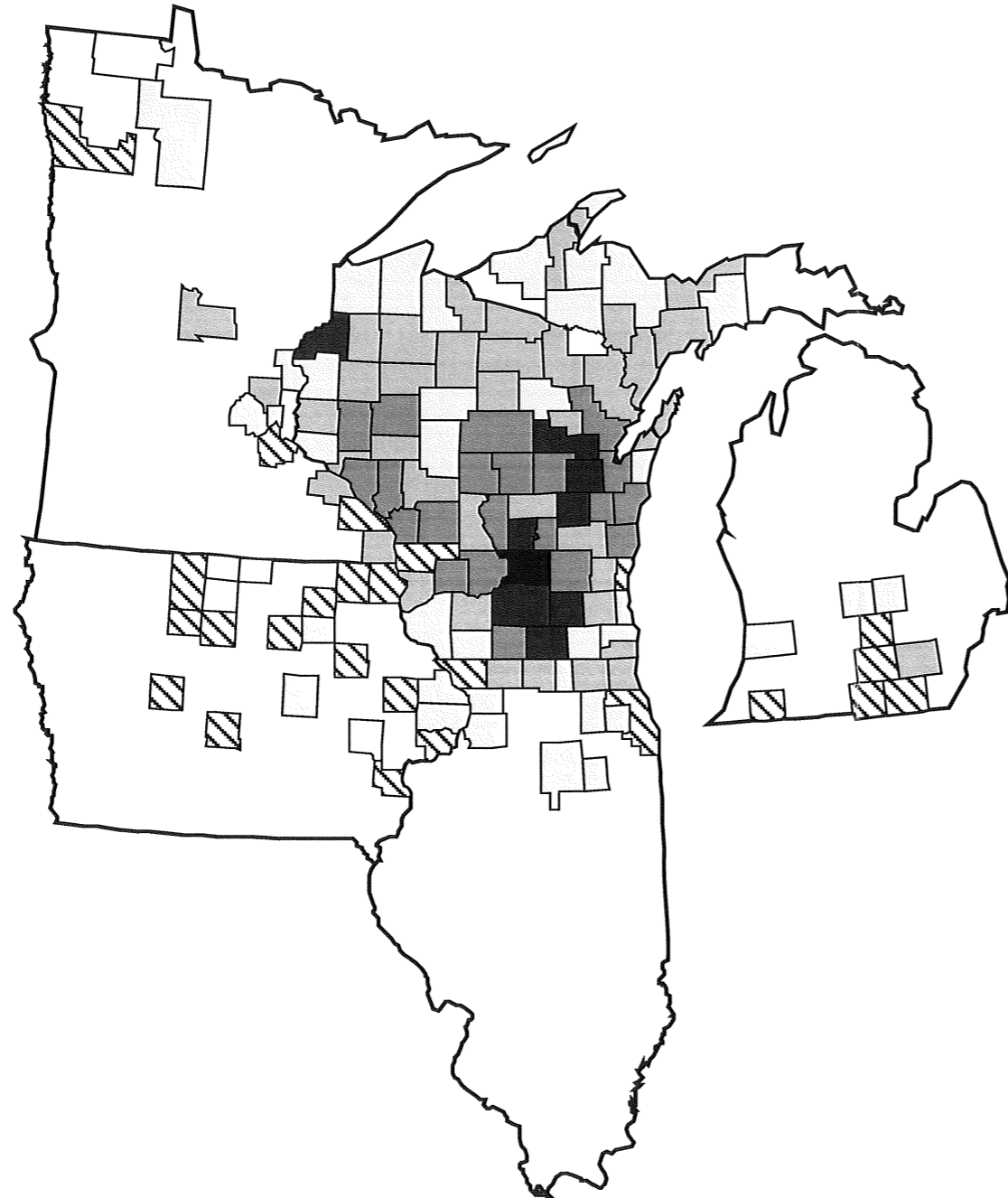
County	Cranes	Pairs	Sites	Observers
Adams	324	26	45	129
Ashland	17	4	11	21
Barron	76	25	19	36
Bayfield	8	2	15	25
Brown	136	28	32	52
Buffalo	107	14	9	19
Burnett	537	88	25	48
Calumet	146	33	15	19
Chippewa	183	55	29	42
Clark	15	4	2	7
Columbia	2193	179	80	171
Crawford	74	16	8	15
Dane	684	93	46	91
Dodge	322	77	30	57
Door	94	13	25	46
Douglas	15	3	11	12
Dunn	159	39	26	50
Eau Claire	84	19	21	49
Florence	0	0	1	1
Fond du Lac	96	30	9	14
Forest	33	9	11	15
Grant	21	7	5	6
Green	161	25	17	29
Green Lake	414	95	23	47
Iowa	57	11	14	22
Iron	30	13	11	24
Jackson	46	17	8	13
Jefferson	522	123	54	91
Juneau	50	12	6	10
Kenosha	57	16	9	18
Kewaunee	13	4	6	8
LaCrosse	139	38	19	42
LaFayette	3	1	9	27
Langlade	17	6	1	1
Lincoln	69	15	16	28
Manitowoc	101	29	12	16

County	Cranes	Pairs	Sites	Observers
Marathon	260	63	25	47
Marinette	42	12	13	19
Marquette	836	122	86	130
Menominee	65	28	13	15
Milwaukee	2	0	2	2
Monroe	303	37	14	24
Oconto	150	33	25	32
Oneida	89	35	39	67
Outagamie	633	53	27	47
Ozaukee	not available	not available	not available	not available
Pepin	45	13	7	12
Pierce	8	1	8	8
Polk	9	3	3	4
Portage	159	5	24	59
Price	51	9	40	80
Racine	20	8	4	16
Richland	147	31	23	37
Rock	765	34	23	50
Rusk	30	6	12	17
St. Croix	30	3	19	28
Sauk	306	38	30	70
Sawyer	33	10	15	23
Shawano	775	85	46	98
Sheboygan	161	32	16	31
Taylor	16	4	3	5
Trempealeau	278	81	30	51
Vernon	not available	not available	not available	not available
Vilas	28	10	9	20
Walworth	21	7	5	7
Washburn	61	18	24	32
Washington	37	8	6	8
Waukesha	81	22	10	17
Waupaca	226	30	19	31
Waushara	73	7	9	15
Winnebago	571	74	30	54
Wood	450	70	41	66

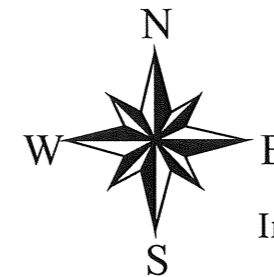
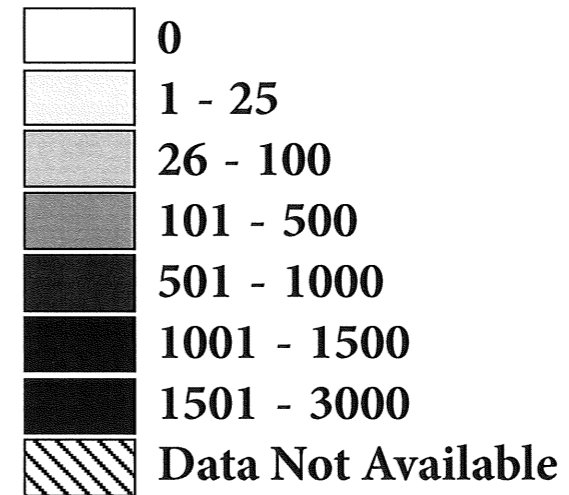




# Annual Midwest Crane Count Results 2007



## Cranes Counted



International Crane Foundation, 2007