

THE BROLGA BUGLE

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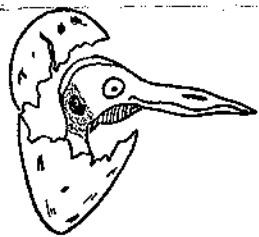
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MILE-STONES

ICF Hatches Rare Japanese Cranes

July 7 and 9 were two very special and historic days at I.C.F. headquarters in Baraboo. On those two warm summer days, a pair of wet and bedraggled-looking crane chicks finally pulled free from their egg shells and thus became the first cranes to be laid, incubated, and hatched entirely at I.C.F.

But of even greater significance than this first I.C.F. breeding record was the fact that the two chicks, "Tancho" and "Tsuru", were the first Japanese Cranes ever produced in the U. S.

Or at least we think so.

There is a slight problem. While there is no question that our female Japanese Crane, Lulu,

is responsible for the two goose-sized eggs that hatched the chicks, the identity of the father of these young birds is still in doubt.

As in most paternity cases, the circumstances surrounding the sireing of the two chicks are somewhat complicated. In the spring issue of the Bugle, we reported that Lulu laid her first eggs at I.C.F. this spring. We also mentioned that we had to artificially inseminate Lulu with semen from our male Japanese Crane, Phil, because of this male bird's lame wing. Unfortunately the first four eggs were not fertile and it appeared that Phil was simply not producing viable semen.

In early June, Lulu began showing signs of re-laying. She spent a great deal of time nosing around her nest and her pubic bones seemed to be expanding. Once again, we collected semen from Phil, and once again, the semen looked bad—mostly urates and other nitrogenous wastes.

Instead of risking the loss of two more precious Japanese Crane eggs (cranes normally lay clutches of two eggs), we decided that it might be of scientific interest to produce hybrid chicks between the Japanese Crane and the White-naped Crane. Hybrids are often valuable in studies of bird behavior since they occasionally lead to insights into the genetics controlling certain types of behavioral patterns. Lulu was, therefore, artificially inseminated with both Japanese and White-naped Crane semen.

Lulu did indeed lay two more eggs and these eggs were collected and incubated in I.C.F. incubators. Two days before the eggs were due to "pip", we began to hear faint peeping sounds from within. They were fertile! Our joy at producing the first fertile eggs at I.C.F. was only slightly tempered by the knowledge that the eggs might be harboring hybrids.

When the chicks hatched, they were carefully examined for any evidence of hybrid mixing. We compared and re-compared the birds with photographs of both White-naped and Japanese chicks. Leg color, down color, bill length, shape of head, and other sundry features seemed to be typically Japanese. But it was still not possible to be completely certain. Crane chicks look very similar to

each other and there is no way to know whether White-naped features may be masked by Japanese features.

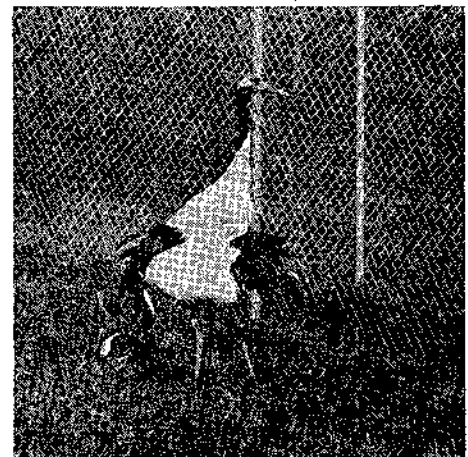
Unfortunately, four weeks after hatching, "Tancho", the first chick, died of an uncommon ailment that leads to telescoping of the bowel and internal bleeding. Although we were extremely disappointed to lose this chick, we were relieved to learn that the condition is not caused by any pathogenic organism and that there was no danger to the other young cranes at the Foundation.

As we go to press, we are very happy to report that the second chick, "Tsuru" (which is the Japanese word for "crane") is alive and well. His breast feathers are pure white and his wing feathers are showing the black primary tips and secondaries that are typical of young Japanese Cranes. Tsuru looks in every way like a pure-bred!

Look for another article on Tsuru in the fall Bugle.



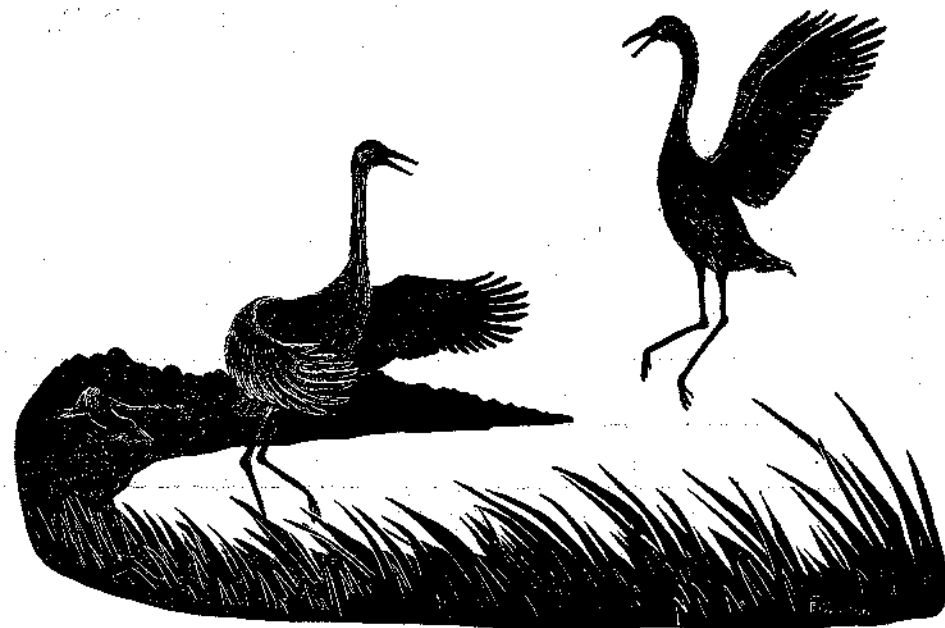
"Tsuru", a young Japanese Crane, on the lawns at I.C.F.



Phil and Lulu, I.C.F.'s only pair of Japanese Cranes and recent parents of two chicks.

The Dance of the Cranes

Students Continue Research at ICF

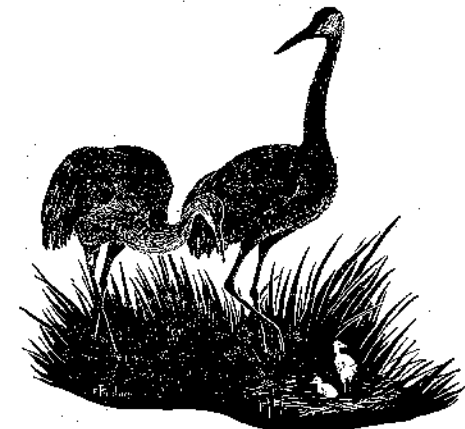


by Frances Hamerstrom

The author and her husband, Frederick, are well known to conservationists all over the world for their important work with raptors and prairie chickens. The Hamerstrom home in Plainfield, Wis., has long been a meeting place and proving grounds for the young ornithologists of the mid-west. Pen and ink drawings by Ms. Eva Paulson.

In far, wild parts of North America the sandhill cranes breed in bogs and marshlands. Sometimes at dusk, or in the early morning, one sees what one takes to be deer feeding — walking slowly over the marshland — and looking again, one sees that they are not deer at all, but giant birds. If somewhere buried deep in American folklore there is a story of "The Deer That Flew Away" its origin was probably a sandhill crane rising from the earth with slow wingbeat at twilight.

In spring the sandhill cranes dance, but few people have ever seen it. Slowly, waving their great wings, they undulate in the solitude of wilderness marshes. At first, with feet upon the ground, they flex their knees, bowing and turning in slow motion; without pausing, they pick up sticks and toss them into the air. Then, as the dance approaches its peak, their feet leave the ground and leaping high, they dance together, and the pale sunlight through the morning mist catches the sheen of their silvery wings. When



day is getting underway and most people are just getting up, the dance of the cranes is over.

It is said that no one in India will tell you where the elephants go to die — I do not know. But this I do know; people won't tell you where the cranes dance. There are probably more ways of not telling where cranes dance than there are cranes in North America. My last attempt at getting information was from an old man walking a ditch bank with a fish pole.

"Do you know where there are any cranes around here?"

He looked me over carefully and finally said, "Yep," and gazed toward the clouds over the big marsh. I looked politely in the same direction. Mosquitoes buzzed around our ears and whirligig beetles swam among the cattails.

At last I broke the silence, "Do you know where I could see some?"

"Yep," he put his pole down, "Plenty down by the river — fish cranes."

"But I don't want to see fish cranes; they're herons! I want to see sandhill cranes — real cranes."

He looked me over again, with infinite patience, and then turned once more to the distant sky.

"Look," I pleaded, "The ones I'm trying to find call early in the morning like this." Cupping my hands, I gave the clear rolling trumpet of the sandhill crane.

Suddenly he was alert. I followed up quickly, "Did you ever see them dance?"

"Yep," and he volunteered, "They used to dance and call like you did back of that ridge — about a mile back."

"But that's drained," I cried, "I saw the dredge. It's all dried up — they're gone from there, aren't they?"

"Yup," he agreed, "My Dad watched them there when he was a boy."

"But you said you saw them dance!"

He looked over the marsh at nothing in particular. The mosquitoes buzzed. I tried once more: "Most of the good crane marshes are drained. They wouldn't have many places left anymore, would they?"

I thought I heard him say "Yup," but we both knew that the secret of where the sandhill cranes dance was safe with him forevermore.

The International Crane Foundation sponsored several research projects this summer at its headquarters in Baraboo. This is part of the Foundation's policy of encouraging and supporting research into the biology of the crane family.

John Baldwin, a graduate student in Environmental Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, continued his study of Sandhill Cranes. As we reported in the spring *Brolga Bugle*, John is interested in determining whether physiological differences exist between the various subspecies of Sandhills and whether these differences can be explained on an ecological basis. For example, initial data indicate that Lesser Sandhill Cranes from Alaska develop flight at an earlier date than their Florida or Wisconsin relatives. This seems reasonable when one considers that Alaskan Sandhills have a much shorter breeding season than the southern Sandhills. Alaskan chicks must be ready to fly when the temperatures drop in late summer and the adults begin to depart for their wintering grounds. John will continue his research for one more spring at the Crane Foundation.

Terry Quale from Colorado State University spent part of the summer analyzing the aggressive interactions between crane chicks. Anyone who has visited the Crane Foundation when very small chicks are present has probably seen the amazing and often intense aggression that exists between these young birds. Cranes only one day old will fight murderously with each other. Terry used 12 young Sandhill cranes to test whether factors such as hunger or familiarity influenced the degree of aggression between chicks. Based on one season of research, Terry believes that both hunger and familiarity will affect the amount of aggression that chicks exhibit. She also found, however, that certain chicks seem "naturally" more aggressive. Her next step is to determine the sex of

(Continued on page 3)



Barbara Brown recording the calls of Sharpe's Sarus Crane at I.C.F.

"SHARPIES" NEST AT ICF

During July, I.C.F.'s only pair of Sharpe's Sarus Cranes, *Grus antigone sharpii*, nested in their spacious confines in the breeding unit at Baraboo. Altogether, the female Sarus laid four chalky-white eggs flecked with brown and purple, in two separate clutches. This is the first breeding attempt for this young pair, and, as expected, these first four eggs were infertile.

Sharpe's Sarus Crane is a very well-marked subspecies of *Grus antigone*. Unlike the much larger Indian Sarus Crane, *G. a. antigone*, the Sharpe's Sarus Crane is uniformly dark grey with the absence of a white neck band.

Sharpe's Sarus is distributed from Burma through Southeast Asia and into the Philippines. In 1964, this crane was seen for the first time by Australian ornithologists in northeastern Queensland. Since its discovery in Australia, Sharpe's Sarus has prospered and even appears to be hybridizing with the indigenous Australian Crane, the Brolga. George Archibald of I.C.F. was apparently the first person to identify a hybrid Brolga-Sarus crane, a bird which he appropriately labeled a "Sarolga". I.C.F. will be keeping a close eye on this unusual phenomenon to learn if the Sarus newcomers will have a detrimental effect upon the Brolga.

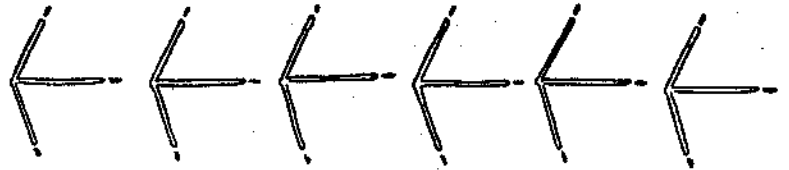
This summer, Barbara Brown of Ohio State University began a behavioral study of the Sharpe's Sarus Crane at I.C.F. Barbara spent eight to ten hours a day watching and recording every movement these birds made. This is a preliminary study for Barbara who hopes eventually to travel to Australia to begin a full-fledged field study of the cranes of Australia.

Barring any unforeseen difficulties, we are expecting to get fertile eggs from the Sharpe's Sarus next summer. To our knowledge, I.C.F. possesses the only pair of these cranes in the western world.



A female Sharpe's Sarus Crane at nest.

MAKING TRACKS - news of the foundation



SUMMER AT ICF



A six weeks old Sandhill Crane surveys his pen from the outside. This is one of the Sandhill Crane chicks which was used in Baldwin's and Quale's study of crane biology at I.C.F. this summer.



Barbara Brown takes a two week old Japanese Crane for a walk on the lawns at I.C.F. This young crane may represent the first breeding record for the Japanese Crane in the Western Hemisphere.



The I.C.F. maintenance crew pose around the water wagon. The Foundation was fortunate in having a half dozen young people work during the summer. From left to right: Dave Gavin, John Brous, Mike Gavin, Frank Femali, and Neil Wilke.

Students Continue Research

(Continued from page 2)

her 12 subjects to learn whether the gender of a bird has a bearing on its aggressive behavior.

A North Dakota State student, Paul Konrad, spent the summer helping the Crane Foundation with its daily chores and also conducting a literature search on restocking techniques for birds. Paul hopes to devise a good method for reintroducing adult or semi-adult cranes into the wild.

Dr. Ellen Rasch and Paul Kurtin of Marquette University are trying to devise a method of

sexing cranes by the use of blood or feather pulp samples. Sexing cranes has always been difficult for field workers and zoo keepers because cranes do not show any obvious anatomical differences that distinguish male from female. Young cranes are even more difficult to sex than the adult birds. Ellen and Paul believe that there may be a way to differentiate males from females based on the amount of D.N.A. in their blood cells or the configuration of their chromosomes. If they are successful, sexing cranes will become a more simple and reliable process for crane biologists.

TAXWISE VING

by Forrest Hartmann

The author of this column is a director of the Crane Foundation and practices law in Wisconsin.

When Is Your Charitable Gift Considered Made for Tax Purposes?

Charitable gifts are considered to be made on the "date of delivery" to the charity. This date depends on the type of property contributed and how it is transmitted to the charitable institution.

It is important to fix the date of delivery of your gift for two reasons. First of all, for year-end gifts the donor will want the gift to be deemed made this year rather than next so it can be deducted on this year's tax return. Secondly, for property gifts the amount of the donation is based on its value on the date of delivery.

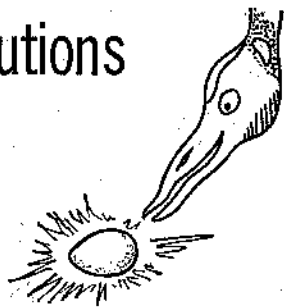
If the donor mails a check to the charity, the date of mailing is considered the date of delivery. Thus, the donor gets a deduction on his current year's tax return for a check mailed on the last day of December, even though it is not received until the beginning of January.

Many donors contribute securities and take advantage of the rules regarding appreciated securities. But with securities, value sometimes fluctuates sharply. If so, the value of the contributions can vary greatly in a short period. Thus the date of delivery is important.

If securities are delivered by hand to the charity, it is considered received on the delivery date. If mailed to the charity the securities are considered delivered when mailed.

Because the donor's charitable deduction is determined by the delivery date of the securities, the deduction is not affected by the stock market fluctuations after the date of delivery. Should the stock value decline after the date of delivery the charitable deduction is not reduced. Moreover, if the stock's value goes up after the date of delivery the deduction is not increased.

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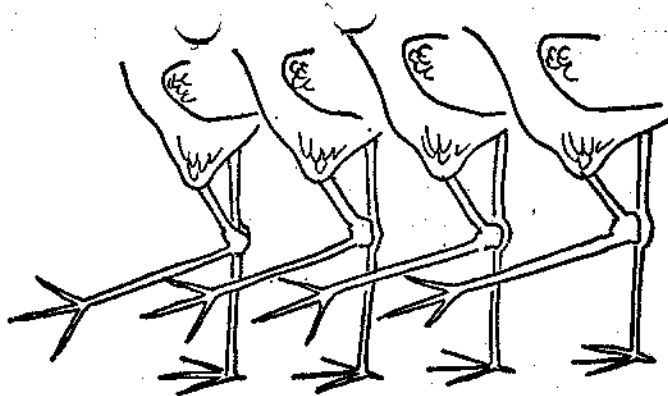
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CORRECTION — We are grateful to John Griswold, Curator of Birds at the Philadelphia Zoological Gardens, for pointing out that the common name for *Nipponia nippon* is more correctly Japanese Crested Ibis, not Japanese Sacred Ibis as appeared in the FEATURE of the Spring Brolga Bugle

CRANES IN REVIEW



New Book Dedicated To Walkinshaw

The International Crane Foundation is proud to announce that its forthcoming book, *Crane Research Round the World*, is being dedicated to Dr. Lawrence Walkinshaw.

Dr. Walkinshaw, an amateur in the best sense of the word, has spent over 50 years of his life studying and photographing the cranes of the world. He has published more on cranes than any other man, and he has done it all with not one cent of remuneration from any government or research organization. A dentist by profession, Dr. Walkinshaw first began studying cranes as an occasional weekend hobby, roaming the Michigan prairies and swamplands in search of these elusive birds. Gradually, Dr. Walkinshaw built up his knowledge about this fascinating family of birds until now he is recognized as the world's foremost authority on cranes.

From a first "vacation" trip to Florida to

study the cranes on the Kissingmee Prairie, Dr. Walkinshaw's travels in search of cranes have extended throughout most of the world. He is one of the few people ever to have seen the Cuban Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis nesiotis*), and has made observations on all but one species of crane, the Black-necked Crane of Tibet.

Retiring from dental practice in 1968, his first thought was to go to Australia to study the Brolga and Sarus cranes there. Since his retirement, Dr. Walkinshaw has been working even more avidly studying his tall feathered friends. In 1973, Walkinshaw published his massive *Cranes of the World*.

As a member of the International Crane Foundation's Board of Scientific Advisors, Dr. Walkinshaw's advice and encouragement were fundamental in bringing ICF into existence. He has shared his experiences, his photographs, and his ideas freely—and very patiently, even to non-crane oriented people. We are proud, and a little humble to dedicate our new volume to Dr. Lawrence Walkinshaw.

International Crane Foundation

World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes



Main office at International Crane Foundation

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

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

The International Crane Foundation currently

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

The International Crane Foundation is completely supported by public donations. Memberships in the Foundation are the usual way of contributing to the organization. Information on memberships, bequests, and alternate ways of donating funds to the Crane Foundation can be obtained by writing directly to the International Crane Foundation, City View Road, Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913. Telephone: 608-356-8084.