

# THE BROLGA BUGLE

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INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION  
City View Road  
Baraboo, WI 53913, USA

Nonprofit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
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Baraboo, WI 53913

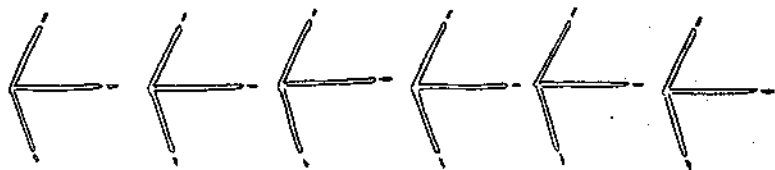
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International Crane Foundation  
Baraboo, Wisconsin, USA

International Crane Foundation Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 1 — City View Road, Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913, U. S. A. — A Non-Profit Organization — Fall 1975

## MAKING TRACKS - news of the foundation



# TSURU FLIES!

On October 13, ninety-six days after emerging from his egg in an ICF hatchery, "Tsuru," the first Japanese Crane hatched in the western hemisphere, extended his huge white wings, ran straight into an autumn breeze, and floated uneasily for a few meters through the air.

This was the very first flight for Tsuru, who is the mystery chick we introduced to ICF members in the last *Brolga Bugle*. As reported there, we aren't quite sure of Tsuru's parentage and there is still some possibility that Tsuru is a hybrid crane.

But to see Tsuru zooming around on his seven-foot white-and-black wings dispels almost all doubts that the bird is not a pure-bred. He looks and acts like a bona-fide Japanese Crane. We are reminded of the renowned Danish ornithologist Hemmingsen's description of this crane's flight as "pure poetry."

Beyond his beauty and his sometimes clownish behavior, Tsuru brings new hope for the disappearing Japanese Crane. If he proves to be a pure Japanese Crane, Tsuru will be used to produce many more of his magnificent breed in the years ahead.



Tsuru on maiden flight over ICF headquarters. Tsuru's large size, bone structure, and flight pattern are typical of Japanese Cranes. Note as well the large areas of white on the wings and breast and the black secondaries and tertiaries. These features together with the white tail with black edging are characteristic of young Japanese Cranes. So far, there is no indication of any indisputable hybrid features, also indicating that Tsuru may be a pure Japanese Crane.

Photo by Linda Smith

## The Siberian Crane

ICF's Target Species

For 1975-76

The Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) is the world's third rarest crane species. Soviet ornithologists estimate that there are less than 400 of these tall, snow-white birds left in the world. The U.S.S.R. is now the only place where they are known to nest. In the 19th century numerous Siberian Cranes haunted the shallow marshes and fresh-water lakes of the Middle and Far East during the winter. Like the remarkably similar Whooping Crane of North America, these great white birds with black wing-tips were prime targets for hunters and those who wished to stock museums and zoos with specimens. In India, the native "mitshikars" or bird trappers considered

the Siberian Crane a great prize and sold them in the markets of northern India.

But by far the greatest factor for the Siberian Crane's decline has been the loss of marshes to agriculture in areas of southern Asia where this species traditionally winters. In the last century vast areas of wetlands have been drained and thereby destroyed as suitable wildlife habitat. India, for example, has perhaps lost as much as 90% of its wildlife in this century. According to an ICF census, there were only 64 Siberian Cranes in India last winter. They are completely gone from Iran and former wintering areas to the west.

ICF is attempting to halt and perhaps even reverse this dismal trend by two separate projects involving the Siberian Crane. The first project, which was initiated last year, concerns the protection and management of the few remaining Siberian Cranes in India. This fall, Ron Sauey will travel again to the Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary (approximately 100 miles south of New

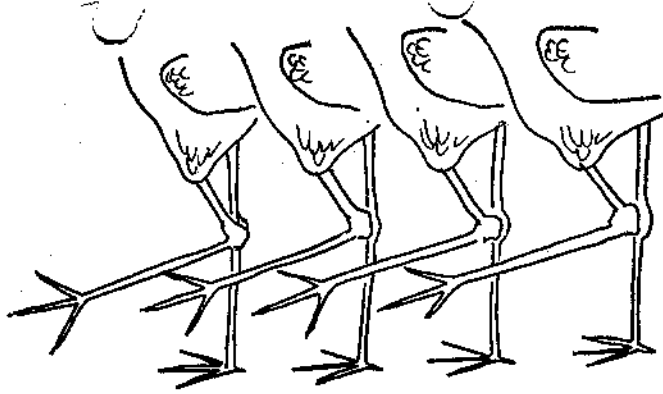
Delhi) to study and record the behavior of Siberian Cranes. The results of the study will be conveyed to the Indian Government to ensure that the last wintering areas in India will continue to support Siberian Cranes in the future.

The second project is a cooperative venture between the Government of Iran and the International Crane Foundation to reestablish the Siberian Crane as a winter visitor to Iran. Although these birds completely disappeared from Iran in the 19th century, there is a chance that Siberian Cranes can be "tricked" into using Iran again as a wintering ground. The trick consists of transplanting eggs of the Siberian Crane into nest of the Common Crane (*Grus grus*), a smaller grayish crane which still winters in large numbers in Iran.

This winter George Archibald will trap Common Cranes in Iran and band them with bright wing streamers, which will enable field researchers in the U.S.S.R. to determine their exact nesting areas. Once these are known, ICF

(Continued on page 3)

# CRANES IN REVIEW



Tom Mangelsen has no choice but to share his picnic lunch with Olaf, a European Crane. Tom's movies of Sandhill Cranes were one of the high points in the Workshop.

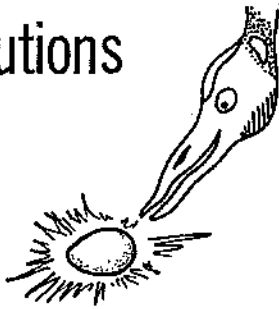
## Japanese and Swedes Publish Crane Books

Two books exclusively on cranes were published within the last year. Cranes by the Heibonsha Publishers Limited in Japan is a 157-page volume containing many spectacular color photographs of cranes, principally those native to the Japanese archipelago; 88 pages are devoted to the Japanese or Sacred Crane, the White-naped Crane, and the Hooded Crane. This is followed by 39 pages of color photographs depicting how Oriental artists have captured the cranes on canvas, ceramics, and other artistic media. The concluding 28 pages provide a pictorial essay on the remaining eleven crane species with emphasis on the rare Whooping and Siberian Cranes. The

work can be purchased for \$15.00 from the publisher at Yonbancho, Chiodaku, Tokyo 102, Japan. The volume is written in Japanese, but the extensive use of illustrations makes the book interesting to any crane enthusiast.

The second book, *Den Stora Transeslan*, by Sture and Britt Karlsson, was published by Wickströms Bokbinderi AB, Uddevalla, Sweden in 1974. This 100-page volume presents the life history of the European Crane in 50 color and 69 black-and-white photographs with accompanying Swedish text. The Karlssons spent many years photographing and studying European Cranes which nest near their home in Sweden. Their interest in cranes grew so great that they finally followed the migration of the cranes diagonally across Europe to the Iberian Peninsula and from there into northwest Africa. The work concludes with a brief account of the world's 15 crane species and an excellent bibliography on the European Crane.

## Contributions



### GIFTS OF MONEY

Edward Allen, George and Silvia Becker, Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Befera, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bender, Betty Beverly, Harold Brock, Todd and Kim Bryan, Canadian Wildlife Service, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Carlson, David Christie, Bentley Courtenay, Leonora Courtenay, Mr. and Mrs. Cullen, Lois Edford, Richard Eggert, Ray Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Fox, Thomas Gause, Wallace Grange, Robert Griffith, Joyce Haff, Cynthia Hale, Paul Hodgson, Paul Hoffman, Salome Juliar Clayton-Jones, Janet Kanter, Jeddu and Karen Keil, Charles and Mary Ann Kjos, James Leach, John P. Lobaugh, Franklin J. Love, Lillian Manteufel, Mr. and Mrs. Joel P. McConnell, Hugh McMillan, Bonnie Miswander, Irene Mueller, Carl Ness, Nancy Otto, Mickey Olson, Fred Ott, Margo Rikers, Russell A. Rill, Charles Ritzenthaler, Len Robinson, Paul Sanders, Paul Spitzer, John Stedman, Robert Sundell, Roger Sundell, Nels Swenson, Mrs. Steward Taylor, Frank Terbilcox, John Tokarauk, Betty Toulger, Donald and Kathryn Truel, Richard Weber, Leona Weier, Eugene and Marlene Woehler, Jim Wright, Ruth Wynn, Judy Valaskey, Pamela Yarish, Tom Ziebell.

### GIFTS OF LABOR OR MATERIALS

Howard Ahrensmeier, John Baldwin, Jim Batt, Barbara Brown, Lucy Canepa, Paul Konrad, Flambeau Products, Milton Friend, Chip and Tom Fuhs, Bayard Gee, Robert Hanson, Debbie Hess, Dick Hunt, Cam Kepler, Dr. Margaret Losch, Marie Oesting, Nancy Knight Otto, Dr. and Mrs. Michael Petrovich, Cathy Powell, Terry Quale, Herb and Helen Molzacher, Ron Rich, Dave Robkin, Rachelle Robkin, Gretchen Schroff, Diane Saloutos, Gerald and Gladys Scott, Walter and Trudi Scott, Polly and Milton Scutaris, Jolene Sorensen, Marian and William Schrieber, Linda Smith, Lucille and Neil Thompson, Maria Villas, Dr. Westerfeld, Forrest and Millie Zantow.

### RECENT LOAN OF BIRDS

Rio Grande Zoological Park, San Antonio Zoo, San Diego Wild Animal Park.

## International Crane Foundation

World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes



Part of the non-breeding flock in their new confine at ICF.

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 or telephone: 608-356-8094.

# Riding Thermals -

## The International Crane Workshop

By George Archibald

Migrating cranes seldom fly in straight line passage or in the usual "V" formation like water fowl. Instead, they soar to astonishing heights by utilizing thermals, or warm air currents. Crane researchers refer to this behavior as "riding the thermals." Human observers on the ground sometimes hear the voices of migrating cranes faintly but due to the tremendous altitude of the birds, they rarely see them. We often like to imagine what it would be like to float effortlessly on thermals for hundreds of miles without ever stopping or needing rest.

This September, over 70 people from Canada, Japan, and the U.S. felt as if they were riding thermals like migrating cranes. All were part of the International Crane Workshop which for the first time brought students of crane biology together from the remotest marshes and the highest government offices. Convened in Baraboo, the Workshop was memorable for the wonderful feeling of camaraderie which developed among the researchers. Names that were previously just at-



Dr. Ray Erickson, head of the Whooping Crane Program at Patuxent (left) guides a Whooper across the back of Loren Scott, representative of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association.

and transported the researchers from airports and bus stations to the Devi-Bara Resort near Devil's Lake State Park where everyone registered for the four-day Workshop.

From the first session of scientific papers at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 3, to the large banquet on Saturday night, the 6th of September, the days were jam-packed with activities for the Workshop participants. There were dozens of papers read on all aspects of crane biology, several field trips to prime Wisconsin Sandhill Crane habitat, outdoor picnics, a tour of the Leopold Memorial Reserve and Horicon Marsh, and finally a fine slide show on the worldwide travels of Dr. Lawrence Walkinshaw on the trail of the world's cranes. The banquet ended with a unique theatrical performance, "Cranes in Culture" given by a Baraboo dance group. Everything flowed along in perfect order and many of the researchers seemed genuinely disappointed to leave on Sunday.

During the Workshop several biologists reported alarming situations concerning certain crane populations. A group of conservationists from Nebraska talked extensively of the dangers of diverting water from the great bend of the Platte River. This area is the roosting place for over 800,000 migratory Sandhill Cranes, by far the lion's share of the Lesser and Canadian Sandhills. Jake Valentine in turn warned that the world's rarest subspecies of crane, the Mississippi Sandhill Crane, was threatened by the construction of Highway 10 through its breeding grounds. There are perhaps less than 40 of these birds alive. Dr. Hiroyuki Masatomi of Japan indicated that the 250 remaining Japanese Cranes in Hok-



Dr. James Lewis, Director of the North American Sandhill Crane Committee, co-sponsors of the Workshop.



Dr. Hiroyuki Masatomi photographs Sandhill Cranes at the Necedah Wildlife Refuge. Dr. Masatomi is an authority on the Japanese Crane.



Mr. Ken Kawata, curator of the Indianapolis Zoo with Dr. Tadamichi, Director Emeritus of the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo. Photo by Nancy Knight Otto

tached to a scientific paper became attached to a smiling face. Crane biologists exchanged personal anecdotes of the triumphs, defeats, and ludicrous moments that occur to all in wildlife research, but are never reported in scientific journals. But more importantly, it was possible to exchange valuable ideas on research techniques and to plan cooperative studies in a relaxed and congenial atmosphere.

Plans for the Workshop began more than a year ago when the staff of the International Crane Foundation and Dr. James Lewis of the North American Sandhill Crane Committee decided to organize a meeting of crane researchers from all over the world. Letters were issued to these scientists asking them about the feasibility of the Workshop and requesting them to present a paper on their particular field of interest.

Responses were very encouraging. Researchers worldwide were anxious to meet. On September 2, in counter to the mass exodus of Chicago tourists, crane biologists began to arrive at the summer resort area of Baraboo, Wisconsin. All day long ICF staff, students, and volunteers met

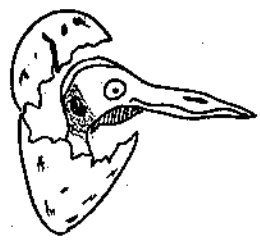


Rochale Robkin (right) leads her group of dancing "cranes" during the Workshop Banquet.

kaido are rapidly losing their nesting grounds to human development. Finally Ron Sauvey and Paul Spitzer told of the tenuous existence of the last 64 Siberian Cranes in India. Several resolutions were drawn up by participants urging governments to take firm measures to protect crane habitat.

Perhaps the most valuable part of the conference was the inception of new cooperative research projects. For example, a byproduct of the Workshop is a plan for all researchers studying the eastern populations of the Greater Sandhill Crane (including the states Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, and Florida) to meet in Indiana in October and discuss management and cooperative programs for a bird which knows no political boundaries.

Finally, a major topic of discussion was where and when the next Workshop would convene. Everyone agreed that more consistent communication is needed. As a result of these discussions, and if the thermals of the September Workshop prevail, crane biologists will flock together again in 1978.



## MILE- STONES

# Koreans Begin a Council for Crane Preservation

We are pleased to announce that ICF's three year campaign in Korea to preserve crane habitat and establish feeding stations for cranes in the DMZ has resulted in the formation of a Korean Council for Crane Preservation.

As George Archibald explained in his feature article in last spring's *Bugle*, ICF has been working closely with Korean ornithologists to conserve the White-naped and Manchurian Cranes which winter in Korea. This cooperation resulted in George Archibald's trip to Korea last winter during which he was able to convince the South Korean Government to establish their first crane sanctuary along the Han River estuary.

George was also successful in initiating a feeding station in the Demilitarized Zone principally for the extremely rare Japanese Crane.

The Korean Council for Crane Preservation under the directorship of Dr. Kim Hon Kyu will continue these efforts as well as expand research throughout Korea to increase public awareness of these magnificent birds. This coming winter K.C.C.P. will sponsor a crane census involving hundreds of Korean citizens and set up two more feeding stations on the DMZ.

ICF is very proud to have been partially responsible for the formation of the Korean Council for Crane Preservation. We congratulate our Korean associates and wish them success in the future.

## "Rocky Mountain High" for the Whoopers

In his well-known song, "Rocky Mountain High," John Denver extols the virtues of the clean and simple life among the great Rockies of the western U.S. Apparently the U.S. and Canadian Fish and Wildlife Service share Denver's opinion of this place because this is the area they chose to reintroduce the Whooping Crane into the U.S. Six young Whooping Cranes are right now winging their way through the pine-scented, mountain air of the Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho with their Sandhill foster parents.

This spring scientists collected 14 Whooping Crane eggs from northern Alberta and flew them to Grays Lake where they were switched with the eggs of resident Sandhill Cranes. Nine eggs hatched and six chicks have survived to date.

These six Whooping Crane chicks, now fully-fledged and taller than their Sandhill parents, are the vanguard of a new Whooper population in the U.S. Researchers hope that these birds and perhaps more recruits from Alberta will establish a new nesting ground in Idaho, hundreds of miles from the Whooping Cranes in northern Canada.

ICF congratulates Dr. Rod Drewien and the other workers who were responsible for this exciting and worthwhile project.

## Young Cranes by the Score

Several zoos and private collectors are reporting astonishingly good success at breeding cranes this year. The Audubon Park Zoo in New Orleans reared 7 Crowned Cranes from a single pair of adults. The St. Louis Zoo also had splendid success with Crowned Cranes; one of their pairs produced eight chicks. The Carl Hagenbeck Zoo in Germany reports four Japanese Crane chicks this year.

Private collections were also churning out cranes. Charles Sivelle of Dix Hills, New York produced four Demoiselles this summer. But hats must be doffed to Mickey Ollson of Arizona who actually obtained 7 chicks from a single pair of South Cranes!

These wonderful breeding records for captive cranes are actually quite abnormal for wild cranes. As a rule, a single pair of cranes lays only two eggs and usually raises only one chick. In captivity, a pair of cranes will re-lay if their eggs are removed by the keeper. This process can continue again and again in some cases until a large number of eggs are produced. The fact that cranes can be induced to lay a great many eggs in captivity is one of the prime justifications for captive breeding of cranes, especially those cranes that are extremely rare in the wild state.

## ICF Membership Grows

Today the International Crane Foundation is happy to announce that our memberships have just exceeded the 400 mark. In fact, 406 persons now belong to the Crane cause. 279 members are Wisconsinites (Madison 91, Milwaukee 80, Baraboo 29, others 113), 28 members are from Illinois, 17 from Japan, and a few from each of the remaining states, provinces, and foreign countries. Memberships started in autumn 1974. Let's hope that 400 more people join ICF in 1975. Are you an ICF member? Have you friends who might be interested in aiding crane conservation? The cranes need your help.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Student .....	\$ 1.00
Friend .....	10.00
Associate .....	100.00
Supporter .....	500.00
Life Membership .....	1,000.00

## ICF MEDICAL CHECK-UP COMPLETE

At 8:00 a.m. on a balmy November 3, a dozen scientists began a health-check/specimen-collecting procedure at ICF during which 91 cranes were caught and processed. Only a flighty pair of Common Cranes and the ubiquitous Stella (the wild Wisconsin Sandhill who joined the ICF team in March) escaped the capture. The other cranes were taken individually to a clean table where blood, fecal, and feather samples were collected and tracheal and cloacal swabs blotted.

The health check involves the search for viral, bacterial, fungal, and parasitic pathogens. A portion of the blood samples hopefully will reveal a comparative picture of the blood proteins in the 12 species sampled. Blood smears will advance research in sexing cranes by determining the picograms of DNA present in the nuclei of red blood cells. Mineral content in feathers may prove a valuable technique to link cranes to areas in which they grew the feathers (their breeding grounds) if in fact feather minerals parallel mineral concentrations in divergent crane habitats.

ICF sincerely thanks scientists from the US Department of Agriculture, the US Department of the Interior, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Marquette University. Special thanks are extended to Richard Hunt of the Wisconsin DNR for initiating the idea for an ICF medical.

## The Siberian Crane . . .

(Continued from page 1)

will work with Soviet scientists to remove the eggs from several pairs of Common Cranes and replace them with the eggs of Siberian Cranes. The Common Crane will hatch and raise Siberian Cranes and lead the young birds to their wintering grounds in Iran. If all goes as hoped, these foster-raised Siberian Cranes will continue this new migratory route and so once again grace the skies of Iran during the winter months.

ICF welcomes the opportunity to conduct these studies and thanks the Government of Iran, the Government of India, and the World Wildlife Fund for actively supporting the conservation of the Siberian Crane. Watch for further reports on these two projects in future issues of the *Bugle*.



An unusual family: a pair of Greater Sandhill Cranes walk with their tiny ward—a rare Whooping Crane at the Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho. The three-day-old chick can be seen to the right of the center Sandhill Crane. Whooping Crane chicks tend to be a worry to their Sandhill parents. Dr. Rod Drewien reports that the young Whoopers respond to the alarm call of their foster parents by heading out for the open water instead of following the adults to the safety of tall grass like proper Sandhill chicks. This mix-up leads to a great deal of consternation on the part of the adults.