

THE BROLGA BUGLE

Editor: Ron Savey, Assistants: Katharine Green, James Harris

INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

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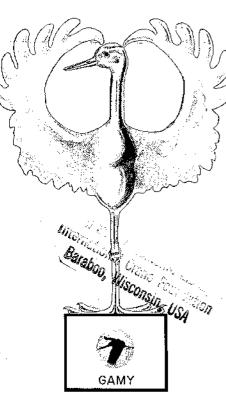
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MAKING TRACKS - news of the foundation



The Gamy, ICF's annual award for breeding excellence.

Designed by John Wiessinger

Two Aviculturists Hired at ICF

The numbers of people working as aviculturists in the U.S. must be comparable to those styling poodle hair and farming worms. Yet aviculture is a crucially important part of the International Crane Foundation's program for conserving cranes. Consequently, when salaries for two aviculturists were donated by Wolf and Ushi Brehm of the Vogelpark Walsrode, we were anxious to pick the most able and experienced people possible.

We are pleased to announce that we have recently hired two people whom we consider among the best young aviculturists in the U.S., Clare Romilly and Chris LaRue.

Ohris LaRue comes to ICF from Missouri where he last worked as the general curator of the Dickinson Park Zoo in Springfield. Chris' introduction to the avicultural world was a part time job he took at the Topeka Zoo in 1967

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2nd Annual Gamy Winners Announced

It was a magic night at the International Crane Foundation as spotlights danced across the sky, and long black limousines pulled up at ICF headquarters in Baraboo and deposited their precious cargoes of nattily-attired gentlemen and sequined ladies. The occasion was the Second Annual Gamy Awards ceremony and the crowds milling around City View Road strained to see the famous celebrities from Baraboo and places as distant as Portage and Reedsburg emerge from their elegant vehicles. The question on everyone's mind that night was which of the 120 cranes at ICF would win the coveted Mother and Father of the Year awards.

Spring of 1978 had been a disappointment for ICF with a marked decrease in hatching and rearing success compared to the previous spring. Yet there had been a few sterling performances, and the talk was that the new bird from Russia was hands down favorite for winning Mother of the Year despite a few problems with her chicks. The likely recipient for Father of the Year appeared to be a toss-up between the two nominees, Casey, a 40 year old Whitenaped Crane from the Los Angeles Zoo, and Yukio Ueno, a Japanese Crane from Tokyo who won the award last year.

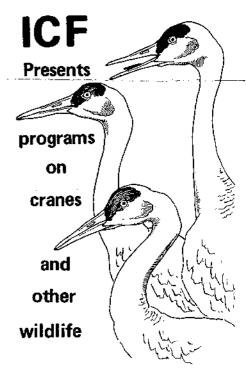
The crowd tensed as the sealed envelopes were opened and the winners announced. Zhurka, the Moscow charmer, won as expected. But in a bit-of-an upset, Casey was-chosen-over-Yukio_as-Father of the Year. The crowd seemed pleased, however, as a sentimental favorite had at last received his due. For Most Promising Female, the judges picked a Siberian Crane, Hirakewa, from the Kagoshina Zoo who laid nine eggs last spring, the last of which was fertile. The Most Promising Male Award was a surprise: Painless, the Eastern Sarus from Australia received the most votes. It was he who fathered Tassaday, the first of his kind to be hatched in captivity (see The Brolga Bugle, Vol. 4 No. 4).

Our congratulations to all the winners and best of luck to next year's contestants!

Now for profiles of this year's Gamy winners: MOTHER OF THE YEAR

The 1978 Mother of the Year, Zhurka, should be familiar to Bugle readers since she has appeared in several past issues of this newsletter. Zhurka has captivated the ICF staff with her tameness and amusing antics ever since her arrival in Baraboo from Moscow in the fall of 1977. The Russians tell us she originally came from the People's Republic of China in the late 1950s as a gift to the Soviet Union. As far as we know, Zhurka was the only captive Japanese Crane in the USSR when the Soviets loaned her to ICF, so we are deeply

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The education program at ICF has changed its focus during the last two months as cold, winter weather arrived. We are now concentrating our efforts on out-of-town slide presentations and exhibit preparation instead of tows.

exhibit preparation instead of tours.

Since March of '78, almost 6000 people have visited the headquarters or attended an ICF presentation. We are pleased to have introduced these people to the Foundation and hope that this number will increase next year.

Although a first-hand look at the cranes is a must if one is to fully appreciate these beautiful birds, ICF's slide programs offer the next best thing. The presentations help ICF spread the word by going into distant communities for club, civic, and educational meetings. Although most of these out-of-town talks are made in Wisconsin, trips have been made as far away as New York City, Washington, D.C., and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Foundation needs to introduce many more people to its goals and would appreciate any help that members can give in this regard. If you are a member of an organization or know of one which may be interested in a slide presentation on ICF, we encourage you to let them know that we are available and willing. Usually the talk is general in nature but we can orient the presentation to comply with special interests or concerns.

The Foundation charges a nominal fee for the presentations plus travel expenses. Information on our programs can be obtained by writing the Foundation's education coordinator, John Wiessinger.



Clare and Chris, ICF's new aviculturists, introduce themselves to four of their new wards, Indian Sarus Cranes.

Aviculturists Hired . .

(Continued from page 1) at the tender age of 17. He admits that before this time birds had not played a special role in his life and that his only prior avicultural experience was feeding ducks and chickens on his family's farm in Kansas, a chore which didn't really endear feathered creatures to him. Christinterest in birds really sparked when he was hired to work full time at the Topeka Zoo in 1973 after he graduated from Kansas State with a B.S. in Wildlife Biology. That year the zoo started on a tropical bird house and Chris was put in charge of the entire building. After two and a half years at the bird house, Chris accepted the Springfield job in which he ran the entire zoo.

Chris brings a special bonus with him in that his wife, Vicky, has a goodly amount of experience as a zoo keeper herself, having worked with a variety of birds, mammals, and reptiles at the

Topeka Zoo.

Our other new aviculturist, Clare Romilly, has only recently become a professional — her first paying job working with birds was at the National Zoo from 1976 to 1977. But birds have been part of her consciousness for a much longer period. She remembers wonderful childhood summers in

Maine when birds and other elements of the natural world began to fascinate her. In 1968, Clare moved to Costa Rica where she lived two years on a coffee farm. There she met an aviculturist with a small collection of parrots and ducks. She was hooked! She volunteered to help out at the bird farm and quickly learned the tricks of keeping different families of birds in captivity. She particularly liked waterfowl — ducks, geese, and swans — because of their showy displays and monogamous habits.

At the National Zoo, Clare discovered other bird families, including cranes, and gained the practical experience of hatching and rearing many different species of birds. Clare also spent a large amount of time giving tours to people of all ages, a talent which may be extremely useful at ICF during the peak visitor season when extra hands are needed to handle the occasional oversized tours.

We extend a hearty welcome to Chris, Vicky, and Clare and wish them long and illustrious careers at ICF. May your winters be short, your summers overcast and cool (ideal crane breeding weather), your adult birds placid and cooperative (especially during artifical insemination) and your chicks bright, healthy, and straight-legged!

A National Symposium on Wetlands

by Jim Harris

Cranes throughout the world depend on large expanses of undisturbed wetland for nesting, shelter, and food. As the future of any crane population is inseparably connected to the fate of its watery homeland, crane management must focus on protection of wetland habitats. ICF has frequently acted to preserve wetlands, most notably in Hokkaido, Japan, where marshes inhabited by the last Japanese Cranes were threatened with development, and in South Korea, where the vast and rich Han River Estuary, winter home of the Whitenaped Crane, was doomed to a similar fate.

In North America, wetland destruction has taken its toll of both Whooping and Sandhill cranes. For many years wetland losses were ignored or even encouraged by federal and state governments, but now that nearly half of the nation's wetlands are gone, increasing numbers of government officials, scientists, and citizens have become alarmed and are energetically trying to reverse trends from the past. On November 7 through 10, several hundred people assembled for a National Symposium on Wetlands at Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The Symposium marked a major step forward in organizing nation-wide research relevant to wetland protection.

Wetlands have been receiving increased legislative protection at both state and federal levels. Most notably, Section 404 of the Clean Water Amendments of 1977 requires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the disposal of

dredged or fill material in all wetlands contiguous or adjacent to navigable waters. As navigable waters include lakes, rivers, and all streams with flows of over five cubic feet per second for at least half the year, a vast acreage throughout the nation is affected. Participants at the Symposium stressed that in coming years the Corps and other agencies will be making many highly controversial decisions with huge impacts on wetlands and on economic development. The Corps must rely on sound scientific information when issuing or denying permits, or else administration of Section 404 will be weakened with successful court challenges or the law itself may be changed in Congress.

Because wetland protection depends on the availability of accurate information, the Symposium's primary purpose was to examine what is now known about the values of wetlands and to set priorities for future research on these values.

Dr. Eugene Odum of the University of Georgia provided an overview of wetland values. First to be recognized historically were what Odum called population components, the values of fish, waterfowl, fur bearers, wild crops such as rice or cramberries, and forests. These are the harvests of wetlands, that yield direct economic gain to individuals. Odum speculated that population components have received 100 per cent of the market valuation of wetlands although they may represent only 5 per cent of the real value of wetlands. The remaining 95 per cent value

arises from wetlands functioning as ecosystems or on a global level.

Ecosystem functions, which result from the totality of interactions of a wetlands' animals, plants, waters, and soils, include the storage and purification of water, an immense biological productivity, and assimilaton of waste materials.

Global-level functions are the ways in which the world's wetlands as a whole supply the basics on which life depends. For example wetlands are unique in having anaerobic mud, where metabolism occuring without oxygen releases various gases. Life for the first billion years existed anaerobically, creating the earth's atmosphere. Cases rising from marshes today may still have significant effects on our atmosphere. Almost nothing definite is known about global scale impacts of wetlands.

Some attempts to quantify the values of wetlands have achieved surprisingly high dollar valuations per acre of wetland. While it may not be wise to attach dollars to all types of values, some mechanism is needed to compare losses from destruction of a wetland with the benfits of developing the land for human uses. Speakers at the Symposium agreed almost unanimously that under present political and economic conditions, not all wetlands can be preserved. Choices must be made. An over zealous protection program can magnify the opposition of other groups.

Generally, harvesting animals or plants does not irrevocably damage wetlands. Land owners may need more information on the effects of their decisions so that a wetland can remain in as natural a state as possible. Disrupting natural functioning will jeopardize the harvest. Harvesters – fur trappers, hunters, fishermen, even many farmers — can provide important support for wet-

land protection.

Wetlands provide conditions for a wealth of plant and animal life. This productivity means that a great many animals, even those primarily inhabiting dry areas, depend on wetlands during part or all of their lives. All fresh water fisheries are wetland dependent. Deer, pheasant, and most other game animals benefit from wetlands. Some animals rely on wet areas for only one stage in their life cycle. Studies of wetland significance to animals cannot be limited to just one season of the year or to certain portions of the day or night. Nor can such studies, or indeed any studies of wetlands, ignore adjacent upland areas. Wetlands are intimately connected with the surrounding landscape, and can be transformed by activities occuring elsewhere in the watershed.

The hydrologic role of wetlands - their impact on the cycling of water on earth - is multifaceted and poorly known. Almost no hydrologists in the United States are studying wetlands. Wetlands slow the flow of water after a rain or a snowmelt, reducing the potentially disastrous damages of floods and in some cases increasing the flow of streams in dry periods. Some wetlands replenish ground waters, which are increasingly important for human uses. Wetlands can reduce sediment loads or chemical pollutants entering lakes and streams, and can reduce shoreline erosion - all of which contribute to improved water quality. Certain wetlands prove to be very effective in purifying wastewater. None of these hydrologic values can be assigned to every wetland, but any one of them might be extremely important at a particular location.

Symposium participants also examined those least tangible of benefits that humans derive from wetlands, which can be termed heritage values. Wetlands have figured significantly in our history, have fascinated artists, writers, and even musicians, have provided recreation for multitudes, and have delighted many generations with their beauty and variety. Public attitudes toward wetlands will determine their future more fundamentally than any array of regulations.

The special claim coastal wetlands have on public imagination has helped in the protection of this limited resource. Coastal wetlands in many states are about as well protected as the law can provide. In New Jersey from 1953 to 1973, 38,000 acres of coastal wetlands were lost. But from

(Continued on page 4)



ICF's display at Ashkhabad. The Russian words in the center of the display mean "Project Sterkh." Sterkh is the Russian word for the Siberian Crane.

ICF on Display in 'City of Love'

by Ron Sauey

The word Ashkhabad, "City of love" in Turkmen, has a vaguely familiar ring, like the name of an enchanted Arabian town in a half-forgotten children's story. Ashkhabad! The mind conjures visions of flying carpets, ivory minarets, and magic lamps.

Perhaps the Soviets had such allurements in mind when they chose this city in Soviet Turkmenistan, an area north of Iran, as the site of the 14th General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This assembly, held once every three years in a different corner of the world, attracts hundreds of scientists, environmentalists, and educators who meet and discuss the state of the world's air, earth and water.

As the host nation for the 14th General Assembly, the Soviets wanted to put their best environmental foot forward, and so they arranged for several field trips to nature reserves in the vicinity of Ashkhabad and also organized displays of important Soviet conservation projects. The Soviet Ministry of Agriculture asked the International Crane Foundation if we would bring an exhibit of our joint US-USSR project on the Siberian Crane. Accordingly, tast summer John Wiessinger, Libby Anderson, and I gathered felt, burlap, and photographs and constructed a 12 x 4 foot display that we hoped would convey both the spirit and substance of the Siberian Crane work that ICF initiated in 1975.

On September 25, I departed for Ashkhabad. To avoid losing the exhibit enroute, I hand-carried the dry-mounted photos and the large roll of blue burlap with its beautiful map of green felt. The only difficulty I encountered on the trip occurred in Germany during a change of planes. The super-cautious Germans made me unroll all 12 feet of the display before they would permit me to enter the jet to Moscow. I won't soon forget the astonished look on the agent's face as I continued to unroll more and more, and still more burlap from the once compact roll of material that fit so innocently under my arm!

As I approached Ashkhabad from the air,

As I approached Ashkhabad from the air, romantic conceptions of a town from "1001 Arabian Nights" were reinforced: great, gaunt mountains overshadowed the city's southern border, while the vast and desolate Kara Kum Desert stretched east and northward, forbidding passage to anyone without the stamina of a Saracen or a caravan of trusty camels.

But the city itself was a surprise. In 1948 a devastating earthquake struck Ashkhabad and leveled practically the entire city. The Soviets quickly rebuilt it, but they constructed mostly European-style buildings, giving the city a decidedly western flavor. Wide, Parisian-like avenues flanked by shade trees fan out in geometrical precision and modern buses speed down streets filled with western-dressed shoppers and commuters.

Still, one catches glimpses of the native Turkmen in Ashkhabad. Old bearded men with enormous shaggy hats and long embroidered kaftans appear in the road, awkwardly dodging the buses and presumably uttering oaths in strange tongues at these honking, metal affronts to their dignity. The facings of a few buildings sport graceful Moorish arches, and sometimes a touch of deep, brilliant blue tile breaks the monotony of 20th century brown and gray buildings. To complete this improbable mixture of east and west, large red billboards appear at regular intervals along the avenues and feature a stern Leonid Brezhnev exhorting the citizenry to build a better nation.

The 14th General Assembly was a reunion of sorts for me because many of the Russians I had met in June during the Siberian Crane egg importation (see The Brolga Bugle, Vol. 4, No. 4) were in Ashkhabad for the meetings. Among them were Aleksandr Blistanov, director of the Prioksko-Terrasny Nature Reserve and Dr. Vladimir Flint, the Russian expert on the Siberian Crane. Both of these men had also visited ICF last May and had stayed in my home for nearly two weeks.

Upon meeting them again in Ashkhabad, I felt like I was greeting two old and very dear friends.

I spent a portion of the next two weeks attending various meetings and committees, but I was most often perched on a table next to ICF's display, explaining to IUCN delegates the details of our cooperative work with the Soviets and Iranians to save the Siberian Crane from extinction

Several days after the meetings began, I went on a field trip to an underground lake about an hour's drive from Ashkhabad. During the return trip, the tourist bus stopped at a cafe and we all piled out to sample Turkmen tea and cakes. While I was standing near a number of very attractive Turkmen women who were selling native jewelry, a member of our party, a swarthy, mustachioed young man approached me and asked if I would take his picture with the women. I obliged and later we engaged in small talk. To our amazement, we discovered that we knew each other! He was in Ashkhabad representing Iran's Department of the Environment, and I recognized his name, Ali Ashtiani, as the person who discovered nine Siberian Cranes at Fereydoonkenar (see The Brolga Bugle, Vol. 4, No. 2) in Iran. He, in turn, had heard of me from two friends in his Department who had visited ICF during the summer of 1977. We were delighted by this coincidence-and-we-became close friends-in-the remaining days of the conference.

Camaraderie was not universal among the assembly attendants. The delegation from the Republic of Korea (South Korea) had great difficulty obtaining visas from the Soviet Union, and after their arrival in Ashkbabad, they were harassed on several occasions by the delegation from North Korea. I knew two of the South Koreans because of their work on cranes with George Archibald, and they told me of threatening phone calls and loud poundings on their hotel room door during the night. The incidents were a forceful reminder that some nations are so polarized that even international assemblies dedicated to the common goal of conserving the world's resources are not immune to their disruptive politics.

On the whole, the 14th General Assembly of IUCN was an immensely rewarding and instructive experience and gave me an opportunity to spread ICF's gospel of wetland preservation to a large and diverse group of people from all over the world. We at ICF are very gratified by the success of the Siberian Crane project and we are hopeful that the spirit of cooperation demonstrated by this Soviet-American conservation effort will expand to other areas of human endeavor.

I would like to thank a number of individuals who were very helpful to ICF before and during the conference; Wolf and Ushi Brehm of the Vogelpark Walsrode provided the funds for my travel to Ashkhabad; Elizabeth Anderson helped (Continued on page 4)



Dr. Vladimir Flint, Ron Savey, and Ali Ashtiani, representing the Soviet Union, ICF, and Iran respectively, join hands in a cooperative gesture before ICF's display.

Wetlands Symposium . .

(Continued from page 2) 1973 to 1978, only 398 acres were destroyed. Protection of interior wetlands, because they are less visible and less valued by the public, is a much greater challenge.

Individuals who care about wetlands can act in many important ways. Protective laws in large part depend on voluntary compliance by land owners. But such laws are effective only to the extent they are enforced. Government agencies are often lax in monitoring activities that have already been approved. Citizens can help by watching wetlands locally and informing government officials of any destructive activities that

Person to person communication of wetland values, perhaps simply by sharing one's enjoyment of swamp scenery, will be the primary means for improving attitudes of the public as a whole. Take your friends out into the marsh with you. Make new friends for our vanishing wetlands. Nothing can spark excitement more than the sight of a wild crane.

ICF on Display . . .

(Continued from page 3) design the display; Danny Weaver of Agri-graphics enlarged the display photos and Frank Iwen and John Dallman of the U.W. Zoology Department mounted them; Madeleine Wright translated the text of the display into French; Diane Huppman of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of International Affairs provided all manner of useful information; and lastly, I am very grateful to Roger Caras of ABC News who helped me through Russian customs in Moscow.

Gamy Winners . . .

(Continued from page 1) grateful to them and proud of their confidence

Apparently Zhurka likes Baraboo. She laid a grand total of 16 eggs last spring, eleven of which were fertile, and four of which are now nearly full-grown cranes. We are confident that we will have greater success hatching and rearing her chicks next year with our two new aviculturists on deck, and we eventually hope to present a number of her offspring to Moscow for the opening of their new zoo which is now in the planning stage.

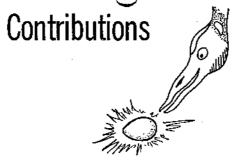
FATHER OF THE YEAR
Casey, a Whitenaped Crane, is on loan to ICF from the Los Angeles Zoo. He was one of the first birds at ICF and has never lost his unflappable cool over the last four years despite some disgraceful assaults on his dignity during artificial insemination. Casey may have fathered three chicks this spring (we're not sure because another Whitenaped male was also used for A.I.); but from sheer quality of semen, Casey deserves the prize. For the third year in a row, he was by far the best producing male at ICF.

MOST PROMISING FEMALE

Hirakawa is also a familiar name to Bugle readers. She is the female Siberian Crane on loan from the Hirakawa Zoo in Kagoshima Japan. Hira laid nine eggs last spring, but only one was fertile because her mate, Wolf, was slow in attaining breeding condition. This fertile egg did not hatch, unfortunately, so we will have to wait another year before claiming success at breeding Siberian Cranes in captivity.

MOST PROMISING MALE

A relative unknown to ICF members is Painless, the winner of the Most Promising Male Award. Painless is an eastern Sarus Crane (Grus antigone sharpii), a darker smaller race than the commoner Indian Sarus Crane (G. a. antigone). Painless' mate Gloria laid seven eggs last spring, one of which hatched into Tassaday, who may be the first eastern Sarus to be produced in captivity. ICF is currently planning an ambitious project on this subspecies in the Philippines which may include release of captive-reared birds. If so, Painless and Gloria's accomplishment is an important prelude to future work on these birds.



LIFE MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

John Ahern, Mr. & Mrs. Gaylard Donnelley, Alma Doten Trust, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Durrell, Dave & Joan Fordham, Anne & Owen Gromme, Reinhardt Jahn, John A. Johnson Foundation, Donald Kindschi, Mary & Charles Nelson, Gardon & Janet Renschier, Willis Sullivan, Patricia Young, Milly Zantow.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

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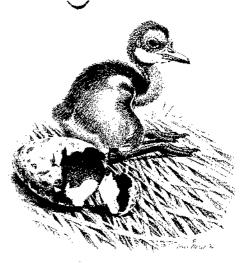
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Mirabelli, William Muth; Alan Nagel, Gloria Needleman, Harold Nelson, Earl Netzband, Mrs. Ralph Neubaver, Karen Nickey,



Crane Notepaper Now Available

One of the world's rarest and most beautiful sights is a freshly-hatched Japanese Crane chick sitting on its nest in the great Kushiro Marsh of Japan. Diane Pierce has captured this moment in a delicate pencil drawing we have reproduced on 41/2 x 51/2 inch beige notepaper. These are now available to ICF members for \$2,50 for a package of 10. If you would like to purchase these, please write or call Joan Fordham at ICF headquarters in Baraboo (608) 356-9462.

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The International Crane Foundation is a registered, publicly-supported, non-profit organization which is dedicated to the study and conservation of cranes throughout the world. Saving cranes saves earth's vanishing wetlands.