

# THE ICF BUGLE

Editor: Scott Freeman

International Crane Foundation Quarterly Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION  
Rt. 1, Box 230C  
Shady Lane Road  
Baraboo, WI 53913, USA  
(608) 356-9462

Address Correction Requested

Nonprofit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 179  
Baraboo, WI 53913

Volume 9, Number 3

World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes

August, 1983

## RESTOCKING

### Siberian Crane Eggs Fly East

by George Archibald, Director

On May 17, 1983 a mere nine thousand miles of ocean and continent separated me and a precious cargo, four Siberian Crane eggs laid at ICF, from a destination to the east: Common Crane nests in the USSR's Oka State Nature Reserve. Six years had passed since the USSR's Ministry of Agriculture sent a similar cargo—four Siberian Crane eggs taken from the nests in the wild—to a destination in the west: ICF. Those four eggs were one of the first and most important investments in ICF's "Species Bank" of Siberian Cranes in captivity. This spring, after years of effort, the first dividends from our species bank were finally ready to return to the wild.

Through an annual grant from the World Wildlife Fund-U.S., and with cooperation from the Soviet Union, Vogelpark Walsrode, and Hirakawa Zoo, nine Siberian Cranes were established at ICF by 1980. In 1981 the hatching of "Dushenka" at ICF marked the first breeding of this species in captivity. In 1982 ICF hatched and reared three more chicks. Meanwhile, our Soviet colleagues had collected more eggs from the wild cranes, and young Siberians were reared at the Vogelpark Walsrode in West Germany and a new Rare Crane Breeding Center at the USSR's Oka Reserve. With a thriving captive flock of 30 cranes at three centers in place, our attention focused on establishing a new and more secure flock of wild Siberian Cranes in western Asia.

Secure, for Siberian Cranes, is the key word. Last winter only seven Siberians were counted in Iran, and 36 in India. Hunting in Afghanistan and Pakistan has probably been the chief cause for a 60% decline in this flock over the past decade.

Common Cranes banded near the USSR's Oka State Nature Reserve, however, were found wintering last year in Turkey—far west of the passes in the Hindu Kush range where the Siberians are hunted. If Common Crane pairs at Oka could serve as foster parents for Siberian Crane eggs produced in captivity and lead their charges to wintering grounds in Turkey, we could establish a new migration route for Siberian Cranes over safe terrain.

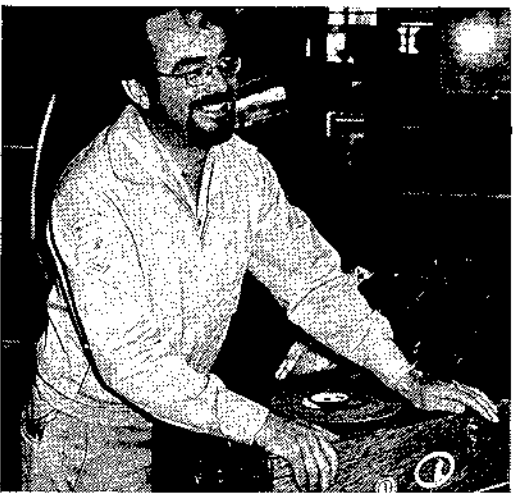
1983 was set as the year to begin this experiment in restocking Siberian Cranes to the wild. ICF's first goal this spring was to produce as many fertile eggs as possible from our captive birds. But with the exception of one adult named Hirakawa, all our female Siberians are still too young to lay. Cold weather delayed Hirakawa's first egg, so she had laid only four by my departure date of May 17th.

Meanwhile, Soviet ornithologist Yuri Markin was tramping through the dense, mosquito-infested alder swamps of the Oka Reserve. Against overwhelming



ABOVE: Three of the people behind the Siberian Crane egg shipment meet the crane behind the eggs. From left to right they are: Hirakawa, of the Hirakawa Zoo, George Archibald, of ICF, Russell Train, of World Wildlife Fund-U.S., and Larry Mason, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's International Affairs Office. photo by Kyoko Archibald

BELOW: ICF's George Archibald checks the World Wildlife Fund-U.S. egg case through airport security before the first leg of his trip east. Three hot water bottles inside the plywood box kept the eggs warm. photo by David Aronow



odds, Yuri was trying to locate nests of Common Cranes that could receive Siberian eggs. In the maze of alder, he was able to locate just one nest, although 50-60 pairs of Common Cranes breed within the boundaries of the 223 square kilometer reserve.

Just before I left Wisconsin, we gently took the four Siberian Crane eggs away from the captive Sandhill Crane pairs that had so faithfully cared for them. Thirty-two hours later, as the first rays of dawn filtered through the pine boughs over the Oka Reserve's breeding center, my Soviet colleagues carefully placed the eggs in an electric incubator. We, and the eggs, rested.

After a few hours sleep and a bowl of borscht, we put the oldest egg in a carrying case with a hot water bottle. Yuri Markin guided Vladimir Flint, Yuri Starikov, and me on a boat trip up the Pra River, then led us on a hike of several kilometers toward the Common Crane nest. As we trudged along, singing chaffinches and the fragrance of Lillies of the Valley helped us survive a maddening onslaught of mosquitoes—creatures Flint calls his "little flying friends." Then came the historic moment.

We replaced the warm Common Crane eggs with the Siberian egg and a plaster-filled Sandhill egg—just in case the parents knew how to return. We then retreated, sure that the pair would return to the nest momentarily.

The next day Vladimir Panchenko, Oka's head aviculturist, checked the remaining three Siberian eggs for fertility. He held them against a bright light, hoping to see the dark mass of a growing embryo. All three eggs were infertile.

My disappointment and mild embarrassment showing, I began to explain the problems we'd encountered with breeding Siberian Cranes in captivity: the erratic semen production by adult males, questionable fertility of young males, and years of waiting before young birds began breeding. The Soviets empathized. None of their three and four year-old Siberian Cranes had produced eggs or semen this spring, and they were convinced that they were doing something wrong. I assured them that their 14 Siberians were in feather-perfect condition, though it would probably be several more years until they bred. We then went over the ABC's of crane management—from diet, pen lay-out, and artificial insemination to photoperiod manipulation. I also congratulated the Oka team on the extremely low mortality of birds there, and for producing six eggs from a pair of Hooded Cranes this spring.

The day before I left Oka, we revisited the Common Crane nest to answer two questions. Had the adults returned to their nest, and was the Siberian Crane egg indeed fertile? There was no sign of the parents when we reached the nest, but the Siberian egg was still in the center of the platform. The dummy Sandhill egg, though, had been rolled

(continued on page 3)

## Dedication Day

by Scott Freeman,  
Education Coordinator

In 1979 ICF signed a contract to purchase a new site. In 1980 volunteers cleaned up trash heaps, tore out old barbed wire fences, and planted a small prairie restoration on the property. More prairie went in during 1981, and in 1982 construction began on the first building: the Johnson Exhibit Pod. This spring the years of planting, planning, and building paid off: the new site was ready to open to the public.

On Saturday, June 25th a small group of ICF's most faithful supporters gathered to dedicate the Johnson Pod and officially open the site. ICF's Board of Directors hosted a short program, featuring the people who made it all possible: Norm and Claire Sauey, who gave ICF its first home, Sam and Gene Johnson, who supported the construction of the crane exhibit building, and Owen and Anne Gromme and Wolf Brehm, who are largely responsible for the purchase of the land.

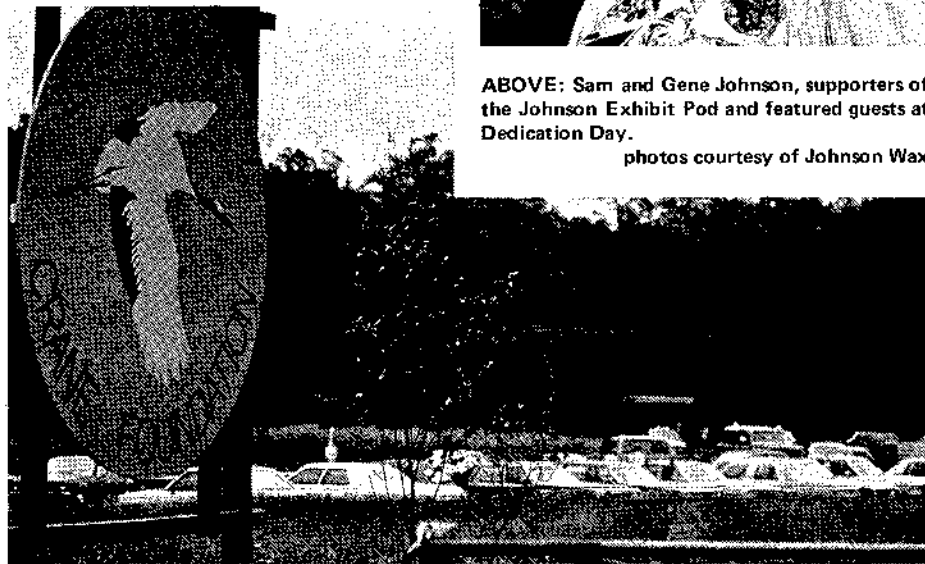
Then on Sunday, June 26th ICF hosted an open house and officially flung its new doors open to the public. Over 1500 visitors came through in three hours. Almost universally, people at the open house and on tours in the weeks since have been delighted with the new site: finding it both beautiful and interesting.

The photos below are an introduction to ICF's new home, for those of you who couldn't make it to Opening Day.



ABOVE: Sam and Gene Johnson, supporters of the Johnson Exhibit Pod and featured guests at Dedication Day.

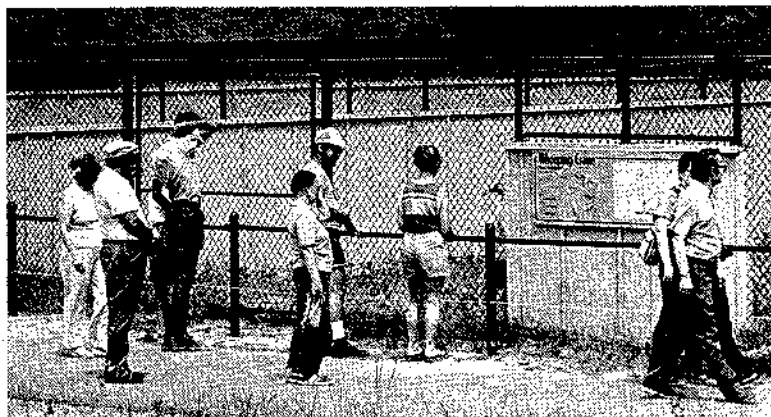
photos courtesy of Johnson Wax



ABOVE: ICF's entrance sign and parking lot on Opening Day, with the Cudahy Visitor Center in the background.

BELOW: Visitors meet Gee Whiz, a Whooping Crane.

photos by Kyoko Archibald



## Kudos for the Cudahys

by Scott Freeman,  
Education Coordinator

The state of education in the U.S. is creating quite an uproar this summer. Commissions are releasing weighty reports, task forces are making in-depth investigations, and politicians are pounding their fists as they debate this suddenly "hot" national issue.

Education is, coincidentally, also creating a lot of noise at ICF this summer. We've just completed work on the new Cudahy Visitor Center, and the din from the carpenters, electricians, and plumbers has been deafening.

The Cudahy building is, very likely, the most unusual building ICF will ever build. The basic structure is actually a hayloft from a barn on ICF's new site. The first floor of the barn is being remodeled into our new hatchery, so we moved the rafters of the top floor to form the skeleton of our visitor center. It's another example of good old ICF ingenuity. The arches from the hayloft are exposed on the inside, lending a gothic air to things, and quickly inspired a nickname for the building: the Cudahy Cathedral.

The Richard and Anna M. Cudahy Fund, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has been the major supporter of ICF's education program for the past several years. Thanks to the Cudahy Fund, our education program has made tremendous progress. The ICF-sponsored Wisconsin Sandhill Crane Count, for example, recruited and trained over 1800 volunteer participants this year. Over 10,000 people annually hear presentations given by ICF staff and volunteers, and our publicity efforts continue to give ICF wide exposure via radio, TV, newspapers, and magazines.

But when the Cudahy Fund's directors backed our proposal to build a Visitor Center, they ushered in an entirely new era for ICF's education programs. With the Visitor Center in place, ICF was able to open its new site to the public. We are, in fact, now open to visitors daily through the summer and on weekends through the fall. Attendance is already running at about double of what we drew at the old site.

The new site's education program has two major goals. The first, and most important, is to tell people about cranes, wetlands, and ICF. We use the birds, films, tapes, guides, signs, slides, and brochures to first capture interest, then encourage that interest to grow into concern and support. Since the new site is just two miles from Wisconsin's major tourist area, the Wisconsin Dells, we have a large and important audience.

Our second goal is, quite frankly, to make money. Entrance fees, receipts from sales, and increased memberships from the new site are already proving to be an important source of revenue for us. If attendance grows, ICF's programs can continue to grow.

We are, in fact, just beginning to tap the new site's educational potential. Thanks to a grant from the Francis Dewing Foundation, we're completing a set of curricular materials that schools began testing, with great success, on field trips this spring. We're planning a playground complete with a bog, enormous crane nest, eagle aerie, otter slide, and buffalo wallow which we hope to have completed by next summer. An attractive set of self-guided brochures for the new site will be ready for use next spring, as will a group of imaginative exhibits in the new Hatchery Building.

Although I've heard people say that the effectiveness of an education program can't be measured—that education is a sort of invisible commodity—I disagree. If you notice the smiles, thanks, and memberships we've received from people leaving the Cudahy Cathedral, you'd know that education can be very visible indeed.

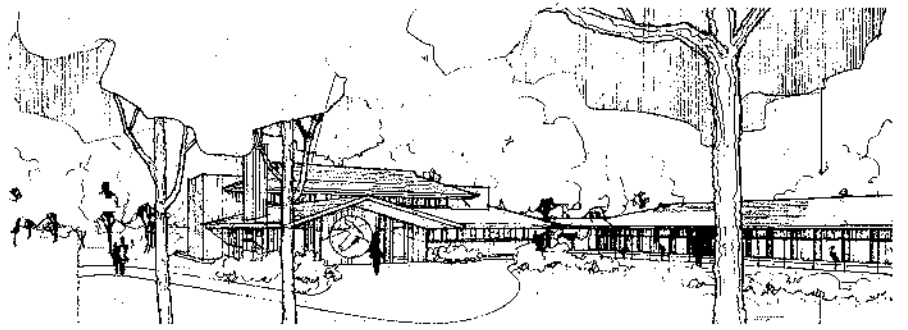
## Ground Broken for Sauey Hatchery

by Konrad Liegel, Site Planner

Amid the hustle and bustle before the Grand Opening, ICF Directors Mary Wickhem and George Archibald quietly signed the contract for construction of a major building complex that will take ICF one large step closer to completing its move. This new building, the Norman and Claire Sauey Hatchery and Chick-Rearing Complex, will become the headquarters for ICF's captive propagation, research, and habitat restoration programs and a nucleus for ICF's education program.



Norm and Claire Sauey begin the excavations for the Sauey Hatchery, named in their honor. photo by Jeff Strobel-Baraboo News-Republic



Designed by architect Herb Fritz, the Sauey Hatchery Complex includes a two-story Hatchery Building, a one-story Chick-Rearing Wing, and a five stall Service Garage. The combined floorspace—over 10,000 sq. ft.—will replace the converted horse stalls at the old site with state of the art facilities. The buildings should meet both ICF's immediate needs and long term aspirations.

Construction will begin by renovating and adding to an existing concrete barn. Steel framing materials, donated by Chicago Metallic Corporation of Illinois, will be integrated into a wood exterior. The hatchery building will also feature advanced energy conservation features in insulation, lighting, window placement and construction, active and passive solar construction and mechanical systems.

The Sauey Hatchery Complex will be a multi-purpose facility. The southern and western parts of the building will be open to visitors, while staff will utilize the northern and eastern parts. For visitors, the theme at the hatchery will be the hatching and rearing of chicks. The hatchery's visitor rooms will include a small theatre and exhibit space. Outside, visitors will see just-hatched to three-month old chicks in the brooder room and chick runs of the Chick-Rearing Wing. "Chick mamas" will be on hand to explain how to run a day-care center for cranes. Graphic panels throughout the grassy exercise area will explain how chicks behave and develop.

The staff areas of the hatchery complex are designed in distinct zones. The first floor of the hatchery building, for example, has one area for incubation and hatching, separated from a second area for laboratory research and health care. The second floor has offices for 10-15 staff members, volunteers, interns and researchers, in addition to a library, meeting room, and caretaker's apartment. The Chick-Rearing Wing has a brooder room and

pens for 25 chicks—some of whom can be raised in visual isolation. Finally, the Service Garage provides space for food storage, a workshop, and tool, vehicle, and prairie seed storage.

The Hatchery Complex is an ambitious set of buildings, and presented several difficult design problems. We owe a great deal to a team of volunteer consultants, who helped the planning process at each stage. Our consulting team included Drs. Bernie Wentworth and Milt Sunde of the UW-Madison Poultry Science Department, Dr. Tom Yuill of the UW-Madison Veterinary Science Department and Veterinary School, and Dr. Wally Hanson of the National Wildlife Health Laboratory.

The Hatchery Complex is also an ambitious fund raising challenge for us. We're deeply grateful to Gaylord Donnelley, Chicago Metallic, the Krause Foundation, Jim and Janet Balding, Dorothy Pain, Fred Ott, Mrs. Walter Ott, Evelyn Steenbock, and Lila Acheson Wallace for making major contributions to support the buildings.

Construction of the Sauey Hatchery Complex is now underway and will be completed by February of 1984, so our next breeding season can occur in new quarters. Before ICF can complete its move, however, one more step remains. Facilities for housing birds must be constructed in the back area of the new property, so ICF's crane flock can move off of the old site. This "Crane City" will be set up like a housing subdivision, with crane pens staggered along service roads. Each of these units will include an indoor pen with two outside runs. Special features such as photoperiod lights, sprinklers, and heat pads will be added as necessary to accommodate the different types of cranes. Detailed construction plans are now being developed in preparation for a funding drive this fall. With your continued help and support, we hope to complete our move in 1984.

## Eggs Fly East (continued from page 1)

off to one side. It was cold. The Siberian egg, though, was warm—the parents were incubating!

Next, we carefully laid the Siberian egg in the open water near the nest. If the egg sank or floated without moving, it was infertile or dead. If it floated and bobbed back and forth, it contained a living embryo. We held our breath as the egg went into the water. It bobbed—it was alive! We departed quickly, full of hopes that a Siberian Crane chick might be found among the flocks of Common Cranes wintering in Turkey next winter.

This year's experiment pinpointed the two major obstacles to establishing a new flock of wild Siberian Cranes. We first have to produce large numbers of fertile eggs in captivity, and then locate an equal number of Common Crane nests at the Oka Reserve. The first problem should be overcome as the maturing captive flock comes into its own. The second can be solved with the help of a technique called radio telemetry. ICF hopes to send Yuri Markin 20 tiny radio transmitters attached to plastic leg bands. Yuri will capture Common Cranes this fall using an oral tranquilizer, and attach the bands to the crane's legs. Next spring, when the cranes return to breed, the radio signals will lead Yuri to the nests.



Vladimir Flint places a Siberian Crane egg in a Common Crane nest, while Yuri Markin and Yuri Starikov look on.

photo by George Archibald

On May 25th I boarded an Aeroflot flight to Beijing, China to begin an EARTHWATCH-sponsored research program at the Zha Long Natural Reserve. In one week, ICF and the Oka team had taken a huge step in the effort to save Siberian Cranes from extinction. As the plane gained altitude and the

Russian landscape receded, my heart was warmed by the thought of a young Siberian Crane chick eating some of those mosquitoes, the determination of my beloved colleagues at Oka and in Moscow, and the hope that Siberian Cranes will continue to spread bonds of friendship throughout Asia.

## SPOTLIGHT: "The Execs"

Mary Wickhem and James Kuehn, two members of ICF's Executive Board, kept the spotlight moving at the ceremony to dedicate the new Johnson Exhibit Pod. They honored ICF's staff, the Board of Directors, and the many long-time supporters and patrons who were present.

In fact, Mary and Jim had the spotlight on just about everyone except themselves on opening day. That was typical of them, although they've had as much to do with the new site's development as anyone. As the leading members of our Board's Executive Committee, they've been responsible for approving and overseeing each stage of the move.

When Mary Wickhem and Jim Kuehn first joined ICF's Board about six years ago, they were impressed by the dedication and hard work of the young staff, and excited by the prospect of the entire operation moving to new quarters. But they were also impressed that the young staff needed some hard-nosed legal and financial help for the project, and quickly began to provide it.

Jim Kuehn has overseen ICF's financial affairs with, as one Board member put it, "more time and energy than most people put into their own." Specifically, his direction on investments, loans, building contract negotiations, and cash flow made ICF able to afford the move. Jim is ICF's financial wizard—the man the staff looks to for the green (or red) light on new projects.

Mary Wickhem is, for ICF, a person of many talents. As President of the Board, she organizes and chairs the biannual meetings. Since she's a polished public speaker, she often appears on ICF's televised Public Service Announcements. She's also brought key legal advice to the Foundation, with the help of her husband John—also an ICF Board member. Mary is the Board's organizer and director—one of the real shakers and movers behind ICF's growth.

At long last, the spotlight is on Mary Wickhem and Jim Kuehn for a moment. They won't consent to stay in it very long, though—they've always got too many other things to get to.



## Contributions



### Grants and Awards:

Stanley Baturin, W. H. Brady Foundation, Wolf Brehm, Central Region NCSGC, Chapman Foundation, John Henry Dick, Alma Doten Fund, Oscar and Elsa Mayer Charitable Trust, Federated Garden Club of Minnesota, Federated Garden Club of Missouri, Findley Adhesives Inc., Giddings and Lewis Foundation, Johnson Controls Foundation, Johnson Wax Foundation, Johnson Wax-Japan, Dorothy Pain, Phillip Morris, Inc., St. Regis Corporation, Norman Sauvey, L.A.W. Fund, Wausau Insurance, World Wildlife Fund-U.S.

### Patrons:

Mrs. Lee Day Gillespie, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Haag, Doris Platt.

### Sponsors:

Oshkosh B'Gosh, Inc., Margaret Winston.

### Associates:

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Auchincloss, Susan Avery, Virginia Bacher, Charles and Nina Bradley, Eleanor Brown, John and Barbara Canfield, Mrs. Helen Crane, John and Judy Day, DuPage Audubon Society, Theodore Eliot, James Ferwerda, K. and E. Findley, Harlan Grosz, Mr. and Mrs. James Heyworth, Carlotta Hutchinson, Kikkoman Foods, Inc., Bob and Nan Kohls, Mrs. Kumershek, Julia McCleary, David Morton, Werner Nartel, Charlotte Oglesby, Dr. Philip Piper, Christine Plochman, William Preston, Tom Roberts, Harvey Schofield, Jr., David and Donna Seifert, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Seifert, David Shen, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Teko, Mrs. A. M. Thompson, Ruth Weeden, Mrs. Howard Weis, Mr. and Mrs. Nash Williams.

## Crane Counts

### HOKKAIDO, JAPAN

by Kunikazu Momose, ICF-Japan

In May of this year ICF-Japan, in cooperation with the Japan Yacho (Wild Bird) Society, sponsored an aerial survey for Tancho, or Red-crowned Cranes, in eastern Hokkaido. Dr. Hiroyuki Masatomi, the leading authority on Japan's Tancho, was joined by Mr. Seisuke Abe, Mr. Takeshi Sugimoto, and myself. We spent a total of nine flight hours over a span of three days looking for breeding pairs. Due to bad weather we had to spend our three additional days on the ground interviewing local people and doing ground surveys from hills surrounding the marshes.

Since weather limited our flight time—graciously donated by our pilot Mr. Nagayama—we could only survey areas where nests had been found previously. We spotted 66 nests and a total of 170 cranes, including yearlings found on the winter feeding stations and along the coastline. If we add cranes which were not visible but whose mates were seen incubating, our total count increases to an estimated 200 birds. This is about two-thirds of the 300 cranes counted last winter at the feeding stations. Without more qualified researchers and pilots, we can't know if we simply missed the other 100 birds, or if they are staying outside of our survey area.

## WISCONSIN, USA

by Karen Atkins, ICF

This spring's Wisconsin Sandhill Crane Count, the third done on a statewide basis, was by far the

most extensive and successful on record. Over 1800 volunteer observers were up at dawn on April 16th and reported hearing or seeing a total of 5,822 cranes. Wisconsin's crane counters covered about 1200 wetland sites in 55 counties. They confirmed that Sandhill Cranes have made a healthy comeback in the area.

The key to the survey's success this year was the energy and enthusiasm of the county coordinators—volunteers who put in dozens of hours to recruit and train volunteers and compile data. ICF provided instruction packets, publicity, training materials, and data sheets, but the county coordinators provided the personal contact so important to the project's success.

## BHARATPUR, INDIA

from press releases

India's first Sarus Crane count took place on April 25th of this year, in and around the Keoladeo National Park near Bharatpur. Steven Landfried, a consultant to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, worked with Park officials, staff from the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Ghana Keoladeo Natural History Society in organizing the project. Fifty-six volunteers from the local area participated, and spotted a total of 258 Sarus.

According to K. K. Gupta, Secretary of the Natural History Society, "A primary goal of our project is to involve more and more local people in the preservation of rare species, and make them more aware of the cause of nature conservation." Dr. V. S. Vijayan, Project Scientist for BNHS, said "I really am overwhelmed to see the response of the people. The scientists were here, of course, but other people were really involved, too. This is the first in India and it is an historic event."

## The Bottom Line

by Bob Hallam,

Development Coordinator

Some ICF members, well aware that the long recession in the U.S. hurt many non-profit organizations, have been concerned about ICF's fundraising efforts. "How are you doing financially?" is a question we're asked again and again.

Fortunately, thanks to continued support from our members, our financial outlook is fairly good. Unlike many non-profits, our income and programs have actually been growing steadily the last several years. The problem, of course, is that our expenses have also been growing steadily. Maintaining two sites, coupled with construction costs, has put a strain on our budget.

Mr. James Kuehn, a member of our Board of Director's Executive Committee, has been working overtime to keep ICF's budget on target. Thanks to Jim's help, our baseline expenses are in line and accounted for. How far and fast we go on developing the new site, however, all depends on the success of our capital fund drive.

To date, the capital drive for the Sauvey Hatchery and Chick-Rearing Complex has brought in a total of \$143,000 in stock and cash gifts. Mr. Samuel Johnson of Racine, Wisconsin has graciously donated 100 prints of a lovely painting called "Tancho", by Owen Gromme, to the drive. Anyone who contributes \$5,000 or more toward the capital fund campaign will receive one of these prints.

ICF's continued growth, at this critical transition time, depends primarily on the continued generosity of our past supporters. We greatly value your concern and contributions.