

THE ICF BUGLE

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World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes



THE PAIR BESIDE THE LAKE

by Prakash Gole, Chairman
Crane Working Group of the
Indian Subcontinent

It happened long ago. A poet who lived by a lake saw a strange sight—two great birds dancing. The male courted the female: he danced around her, pirouetted, jumped in the air, and made chivalrous bows. The coy female accepted with gentle nods.

Both were so entranced that they forgot the world around them. Then the poet saw to his horror that a hunter was approaching. A swift movement, and an arrow struck the male. The female saw her mate fall, but she did not run away. She tried to rouse him with her beak and doggedly stood her ground. The hunter closed in and the female, too, fell beside her mate.

When the poet saw the tragic end of the couple, a poem took shape in his mind. This was the birth of the great Indian epic, "The Ramayana," which still enralls millions in India, Burma, Thailand, and Indonesia.

The cranes that inspired this epic still grace the Indian countryside. But the hunter, now in a different garb, still stalks the cranes and may yet put an end to their lives. So while there is still time, let me tell you the full story of the great birds since that epochal event beside the lake.

People and cranes coexist

Millions of years ago, a great sea surged where the plains of north India sprawl today. As the Himalayas rose, the sea retreated, leaving behind a great trough which was filled with silt brought down from the mountains by India's great rivers, the Ganga and the Yamuna. A great alluvial plain formed with

innumerable streams, lakes and marshlands.

Then man came and saw with delight the great variety of animals and birds that belonged to the fertile plains. Though he killed some of them for food, he admired many others for the nobility of their character.

One of the largest birds always appeared in pairs, and he called it Sarus for its strident, bugle-like call. He admired the bird's graceful looks, its ardent courtship and the great devotion the paired birds showed each other. For dwellers of the plains, Sarus became the symbol of conjugal love. People felt sorry for

what happened on that fateful day beside the lake, and vowed never to repeat it. The Sarus were protected, almost lost their fear of man, and came to live beside the village.

During the tumultuous period when the fortunes of dynasties waxed and waned, India's countryside and village life changed but little. People drew water from wells and the village pond bordered by tall reeds; and in these reeds the Sarus pair built their nest and laid two eggs.

The marsh around the pond provided food

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The Sarus Crane, tallest flying bird on earth, is declining throughout southern Asia. This issue of *The ICF Bugle* will be distributed at two regional crane workshops, where conservationists will discuss plans for protecting remaining wetland habitats and managing Sarus populations. In late December, "The Asian Crane Congress - 1989" will convene at Saurashtra University in Rajkot, Gujarat, India. Aside from discussions about the Sarus, delegates from central and southern Asia will consider how to protect migrating populations of Common, Demoiselle, and Siberian Cranes. In January of 1990, representatives from over ten countries will assemble at Tram Chim Nature Reserve in Dong Thap Province of Vietnam. The "Workshop on the Conservation of the Sarus Crane" will prepare a plan for Sarus Crane conservation across the wide range of the species. Photo by Sture Karlsson

EGGS IN TWO BASKETS

by George Archibald, Director

Since 1964, the United States and Canadian governments have worked together in building a captive flock of Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*) at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. Most of the Patuxent birds hatched from eggs collected from wild cranes in Canada. Researchers could take one egg from two-egg nests without reducing productivity, because the Whoopers that lay two eggs seldom raise more than one chick.

Although zoos have bred cranes in captivity, the work at Patuxent was the first concerted effort in North America to breed cranes on a long-term basis, and the first to link captive breeding with reintroduction back into the wild.

Patuxent's team of scientists developed innovative techniques to assure the birds'

welfare and to encourage breeding. For example, Dr. George Gee, who has been with the program for over two decades, pioneered artificial insemination for cranes. Later, he developed cryogenic preservation of crane semen.

Dr. John Serafin has modified poultry diets to produce pelletized "crane chow" in a spectrum of formulas that meet the needs of birds from hatching to breeding. Dr. Jim Carpenter, Dr. Josh Dein, Dr. Glenn Olson, and many other veterinarians developed techniques for both preventing and treating health problems in cranes—their activities ranged from developing vaccines to determining safe drug dosages.

Dr. Cameron Kepler, Dr. Scott Derrickson, Dr. Dave Ellis, and Scott Hereford pioneered techniques in behavioral management of Whoopers—techniques that assure strong pair bonds and thereby improve productivity. Working with Sandhill Cranes, they developed methods that allow captive cranes to be released back into the wild.

These accomplishments at Patuxent would not have been possible without the early leadership of Dr. Ray Erickson. Ray conceived the idea of captive management of endangered species, and transformed his dream into reality at Patuxent, where he served as the director of the Endangered Species Research Branch until 1980. Now retired and living on the West Coast, Ray is a member of ICF's Board of Advisors.

Risks in Captivity

Life is fragile. . . and for managers of endangered species in captivity, there are many uncharted waters.

For example, at ICF in 1978, a formerly unknown variety of herpes virus suddenly killed 22 cranes. And in 1984 at Patuxent, Equine Encephalitis Virus carried by mosquitoes snuffed out seven Whooping Cranes. Cranes are prone to a variety of diseases, including coccidiosis, salmonellosis, and tuberculosis. In addition, severe storms or accidents threaten cranes, both in the wild and in captivity. To avoid the possibility of catastrophic loss that could result from holding all the Whoopers at Patuxent, the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service decided to transfer half the captive flock to ICF.

Preparations at ICF

ICF has worked with captive Whooping Cranes since 1976. Our first *Grus americana* was "Tex", a female that became hopelessly imprinted on humans after hatching at the San Antonio Zoo in 1967. I became Tex's mate—after all, she preferred humans to cranes. With semen imported from Patuxent in 1982, we finally produced a fertile egg that hatched. Our offspring was named "Gee Whiz" because Patuxent's Dr. George Gee sent the semen.

Now a handsome adult male, Gee Whiz has shared an enclosure for most of his seven years at ICF with a gorgeous Red-crowned Crane female named "Zhalong." Having experienced a more sensible upbringing than his mother, Gee Whiz prefers cranes to people. Since Tex died in 1982, Gee Whiz has been the only Whooper at ICF. This autumn, ICF will pair Gee Whiz with a Whooping Crane from Patuxent.

Since ICF's beginning in 1973, we have concentrated on the captive management of endangered cranes from Asia—the Siberian, Red-crowned, White-naped, and Hooded Cranes. Thirteen of the world's fifteen species of cranes have bred at ICF. We have high hopes that in 1990, our excellent pairs of Wattled Cranes and Black-necked Cranes will also breed. Now, we are excited by the opportunity to round out our program through managing and breeding a flock of Whooping Cranes from North America, the most endangered crane of all.



On August 30, officials at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center announced that 22 Whooping Cranes would be sent to ICF. From left to right: John F. Turner, Director of the US Fish & Wildlife Service; Constance Harriman, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks; Jim Range, Chairman of the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; and George Archibald, Director of ICF. Photo by Ashton Graham/USFWS.

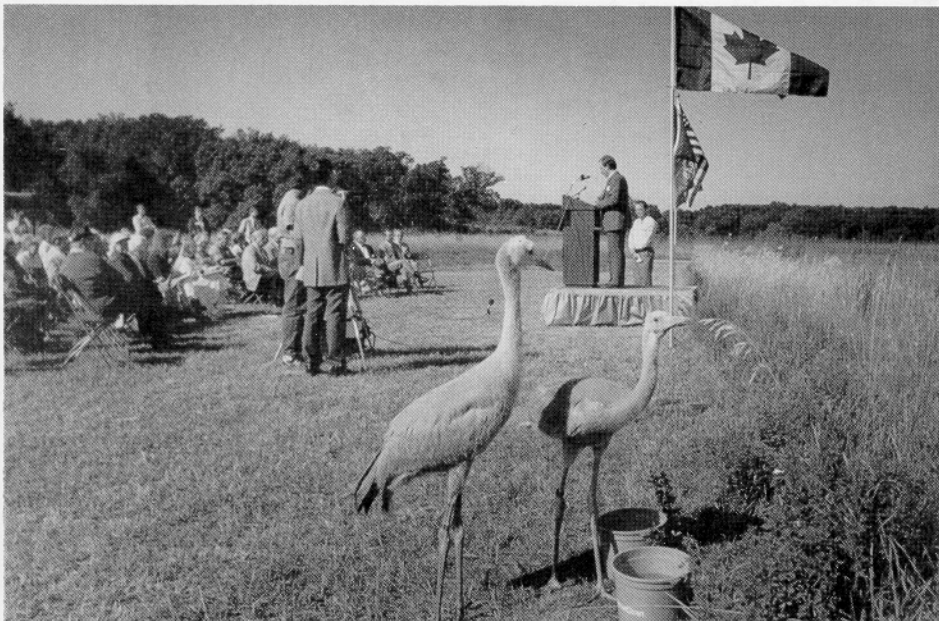
Since the move to our new site, ICF has built 65 pens for the management of pairs and their offspring. Fourteen pairs are displayed for the public at the Johnson Exhibit Pod and the Crowned Crane Exhibit. The rest of ICF's cranes reside in pens, forming a 12-acre complex called "Crane City," where they occupy addresses on Sibe Street, Brolga Boulevard, and Tancho Terrace. ICF already had five pens reserved for the Whoopers, but to provide enough space for the new arrivals, a new street with 12 more enclosures was needed at Crane City.

Through generous support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, "Whooper Way" is now a reality and awaits the immigrants from Maryland. Through additional support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ICF will add 2.5 employees to the aviculture staff; a half-time veterinarian, a veterinary technician, and an aviculturist. We are thrilled that ICF's consulting veterinarian, Dr. Julie Langenberg, will increase her commitment to half-time at ICF. She will spend the other half of her time as an avian clinician and instructor at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, expanding our productive relationship with that facility.

Finally, we welcome the 22 Whoopers, each one carefully selected after considering its genetic background, age, behavioral problems, and breeding success. In June, a meeting was held at ICF to make the selections. The goal was to select an approximately equal number of birds in each category for the two centers. Under the guidance of US Whooping Crane Coordinator Jim Lewis, staff from both ICF and Patuxent poured over the records for each bird, trying to optimize the genetic diversity remaining at each site in case the birds at one location are lost. Genetic diversity is already greatly reduced because the present flock reached a low of only 16 birds in 1940.

Obviously, an equal number of prolific breeding pairs also have to be sent to each site. The meeting set a cooperative spirit, allowed ICF staff to hear firsthand about the idiosyncrasies of each bird, and gave Patuxent personnel a chance to learn about ICF's programs. It was decided that for the Whoopers, ICF's focus would be on breeding while Patuxent's focus would be on research, and captive propagation for future releases into the wild.

At ICF, we treat each bird as an individual, with a unique personality. ICF's aviculturists are looking forward to getting to know all of the new Whoopers, including productive pairs such as Ulysses and Ursula, and Rattler and Mrs. Rattler. We are looking forward to sharing stories about these feathered personalities with the readers of the *ICF Bugle*.



On September 16, ICF hosted a ceremony honoring the Whooping Cranes, and celebrating progress in the construction of their new pens. Two crane chicks await their cue on stage left, while Jeff Jensen leads a prayer for over a hundred attendees. Photo by Ron Brayer.



The ceremony ended with planting the street sign for "Whooper Way." From left to right: Jim Lewis, Whooping Crane Coordinator for the US Fish & Wildlife Service; George Archibald; Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson; and Mary Wickhem, President of the ICF Board of Trustees. Photo by Ron Brayer.

The Pair Beside the Lake

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for their chicks, and the pair often visited fields to glean fallen grain after the harvest. No one bothered the pair or their chicks. They were a part of the village scene, as was the stork nesting in the tall banyan tree or the monkey living on the temple tower. The land teemed with ponds and marshes, and Sarus were everywhere. Their clarion-like calls marked the beginning of another day for many a village family.

The end of tranquility

It seemed that the hunter had been permanently banished. But no! The tranquility of village life was shattered by events that took shape in faraway capitals. Cities continued to grow, and then started dictating what the villagers should sow and reap. They sent to the village new seeds, fertilizers and water from canals. Many village ponds soon went into disuse, filled with village waste, and dried up. Machines roared into fields and drove the birds away. Roads and highways cut through the countryside, dividing fields and bisecting the Sarus territories. Fields that once grew grain changed to cash crops like sugar cane and tobacco, and marshes were drained for expanding agriculture.

Finally, industry made its appearance in the village. Labor from distant lands poured in for construction and factory work; the new people set up shacks, and weeds spread where once the lotus bloomed and the lily blossomed. Fertilizers and insecticides washed from fields into the ponds and killed freshwater plants and animals. The village ponds that remained became cesspools of filth.

I clearly saw all this when I traveled several hundred miles through the Sarus country. I traveled across Orissa, the region where rice is said to have its origin. I knew that in the absence of marshes, Sarus often resorted to flooded rice fields. But there was no Sarus in Orissa (see map). From Orissa, I entered south Bihar and then stepped into the great alluvial plain of the Ganga and the Yamuna rivers.

In vain did I look for Sarus till I reached the very center of the Ganga-Yamuna flood plain. I asked the villagers, and showed them colored pictures of Sarus... but everyone told me: "Sarus used to be in our village some years ago. But now it is gone."

Luck at last!

When at last I met my first Sarus pair, I had already crossed half the region of the Sarus range as described by the ornithological texts.

I jerked my vehicle to a stop when I saw the pair quietly gleaning grain in a harvested field. Not far from the pair, a farmer and his family worked. It was the same tranquil scene

Studying Sarus in the Field

At one time, Sarus was a common sight in the plains of north India. It used to be found from the flood plains of the river Indus in the west (now in Pakistan) to the Brahmaputra River floodplains in the east. But observers found that since the 1960s, Sarus had become scarce in many areas of its former range, and was no longer seen in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The government of India therefore decided to commission a study of the current range, status and ecological requirements of the bird. The India Crane Working Group accepted this challenging task and its members fanned out to study Sarus in the field. As Principal Investigator and Coordinator, I trav-

eled over 15,000 kilometers and wrote the final report.

I found that in most areas, the breeding habitat of Sarus was endangered, leading to a decrease in production of young. But unfortunately, creation of sanctuaries or reserves may not help, because breeding pairs are widely scattered. The answer to this challenge lies with village people, for the bird is an integral part of the north Indian village scene.

To help rehabilitate Sarus, I have recommended that improvement of the village pond, systematic investigation of its waters, and restoration of aquatic ecosystems should form an integral part of the village development program.

Prakash Gole

that I had envisioned many times. A thrill ran through me, probably the same feeling the poet had experienced on that fateful day.

I asked the farmer to show me the village pond. He took me to a small lake surrounded by stately mango trees. In one corner was the familiar reedbed—the home of the Sarus. "Two or three families nest here," he told me. I then visited another lake not far away. This was overgrown with aquatic vegetation. But there I saw a Sarus pair with two juveniles—gray and cinnamon-brown, small replicas of their tall parents.

I continued to meet Sarus as I traveled. I saw them in the fields gleaning fallen grain, even attacking standing crops of rice and wheat. I asked the farmers how they felt about the theft of their crop. "It's not much," they carelessly remarked. I saw Sarus with juveniles foraging in shallow ponds and

marshes. Once as I was watching Sarus in a marsh, a village boy came and told me that a road was being planned through a part of the marsh. "Do you like it?" I asked him. "No, I don't want to lose all these birds," he replied.

I saw Sarus coming together for rest under trees, and I witnessed their evening social gatherings when they collected in flocks to play, run, chase one another, dance and jump in the most delightful manner. As the sun set, I saw them winging their way to a roost in a wide and shallow basin of the river.

Gradually, I came to understand how the Sarus spent their days. Principally, their time passed in feeding and resting. While pairs with chicks fed chiefly in marshlands, pairs without chicks fed in agricultural fields. During the warmer part of the day, they rested under shady trees, in large pools or on river-



Sarus Crane populations in India are declining under the pressures of economic progress. Photo by Prakash Gole.

banks. A number of pairs gathered at these resting places, where they preened vigorously to keep their feathers clean and trim.

The evening social time was important too. It was then that the newly recruited adults probably found their mates, and already mated pairs strengthened their bonds. These social gatherings took place in fallow fields and what we called "waste" lands. The habitat combination that Sarus appeared to favor best was marshes, ponds, fallow land, and cultivation—in that order.

Can the Sarus survive progress?

By now, I had crisscrossed a lot of Sarus country. I had observed over 1,200 Sarus in different regions. It was gratifying to see that Sarus was still protected. Except for a few pockets inhabited by hunter-gatherer tribes who killed with bow and arrow anything that was moving, Sarus was not hunted.

The great birds even prospered in certain areas. They had taken over strips bordering irrigation canals where water seeping through canals had created wetlands, and here the Sarus nested throughout the year. The year-round availability of shallow water and marsh probably triggered this unusual nesting behavior.

It was wonderful to find the hunter vanished from these Sarus areas. But when I probed deeper, certain disturbing trends became visible. Even in regions where Sarus were numerous, not many pairs could breed successfully. For many of them, sufficient breeding habitat was just not available. Marshes and ponds had gone under the plough or had been reclaimed for other uses. If the Sarus is not able to breed with success in its area of greatest concentration, declining population will result.

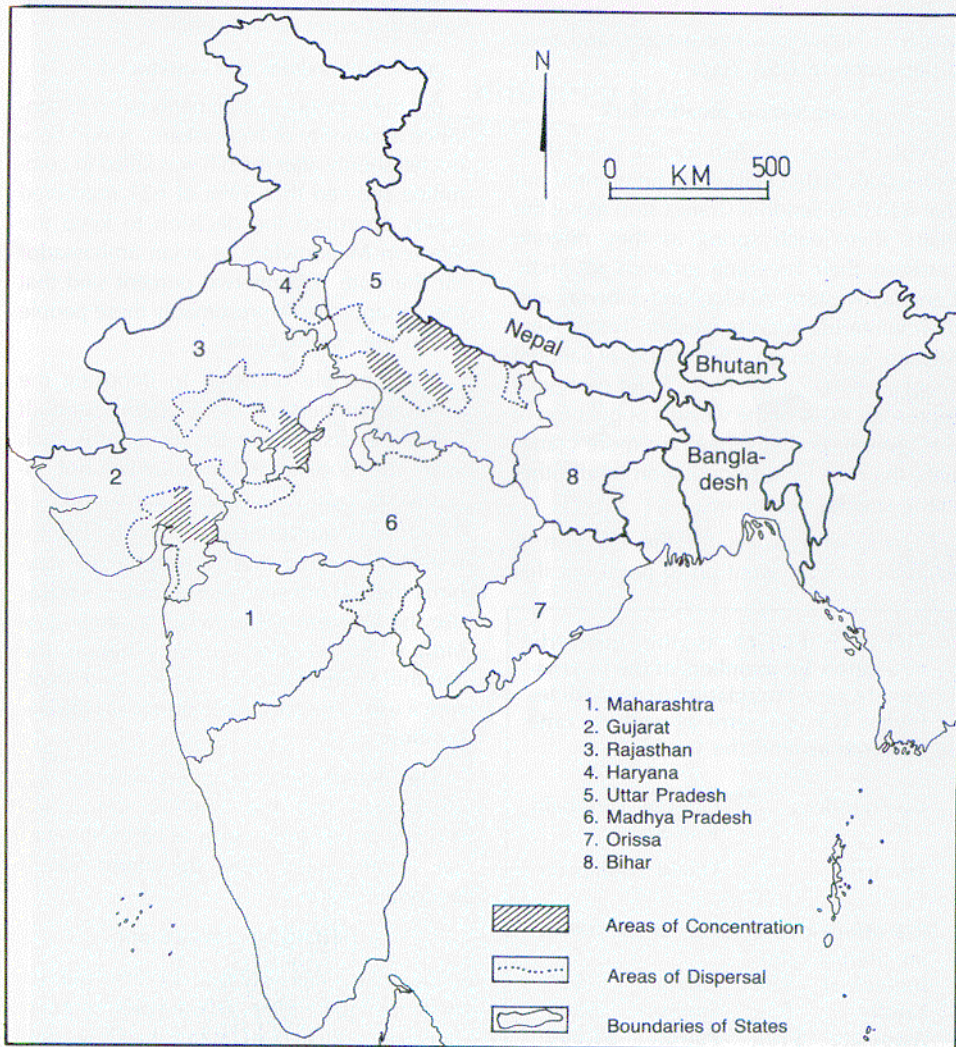
In regions where agriculture was mechanized and dependent on heavy doses of fertilizers and insecticides, no Sarus could be found. Sarus appear to have retreated to the so-called "backward" areas, where agriculture is still traditional, where harvests are low because very little fertilizer and insecticide are used, and where human population densities and urbanization lag behind the rest of India.

What if these so-called backward regions also come under the spell of economic progress? Where will the Sarus go then? Are great birds like the Sarus and the stork incompatible with economic progress? Which future do you prefer, dear reader? The pair beside the lake, or the car and the supermarket?

It is not the bow or the gun that threatens the Sarus in India today. The "hunter" has been transformed into something more wily and perhaps more dangerous, for he now comes in the garb of Technological Man!



An Indian Sarus Crane tends its chick at Keoladeo National Park, near Bharatpur. Many Sarus Cranes breed in scattered locations outside nature reserves, typically nesting in reeds at the edge of village ponds. Since times untold, villagers and the cranes have coexisted in northern India. Photo by M. Philip Kahl, Jr.



Areas of concentration and areas of dispersal for the Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone antigone*). Since the 1960's, the Sarus has become scarce in many parts of its former range, and is no longer seen in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Move Over, Western Meadowlark

by David Thompson,
Education Director

Last January a bill to change Nebraska's state bird from the Western Meadowlark to the Sandhill Crane didn't fly in the State Legislature, even though Sandhill Cranes showed up in the state three weeks early, in time for a hearing that killed the bill.

Two years ago, Wildlife Biologist Craig Faanes was out viewing the magnificent concentration of cranes along the Platte River; bird watchers from Georgia asked him what Nebraska's State Bird was. "The Western Meadowlark," he said. "Well, why isn't it the Sandhill Crane?" the tourists replied. Faanes thought about it, then contacted State Senator Arlene Nelson, who introduced a bill in January, 1989.

The proposed change sparked many columns in Nebraska's newspapers, and even a paragraph in *USA Today*.

Crane versus meadowlark

When Faanes testified for the bill before Nebraska's State Legislature, he pointed out that 430,000 Sandhill Cranes stop along the Platte River each spring as they migrate between their breeding grounds in Arctic Canada, western Alaska, and Siberia, and their wintering areas in western Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico. The number of Sandhill Cranes resting on the Platte River each year represents 80% of the world's population of the species; perhaps there are more cranes here than the world population of all other crane species combined.

Faanes, who works for the US Fish & Wildlife Service, went on to point out that

THE ICF BUGLE is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation (ICF). Articles review ICF programs as well as crane research around the world.

Co-Founders: George Archibald
Ron Sauey
Editor: David Thompson

ICF offers memberships at the following annual rates:

Individual	\$20	Foreign	\$25
Family	\$30	Sponsor	\$500
Associate	\$100	Patron	\$1,000

the Platte River in Nebraska is a critical link for the survival of the birds. Most of the Sandhills in North America and Siberia funnel through this bottleneck during their migration. Upon reaching the Platte River in the spring, the birds rest for over two months because habitat to the north is still frozen.

The massing of cranes on sandbars and fields along the Platte every year is a spectacle that has drawn visitors from 45 states and ten foreign countries to the Sandhill Crane viewing facility near Grand Island. In March of 1989, Grand Island hosted a three day celebration of the migration, drawing tourists from New York City and Los Angeles. According to Faanes, "These people are not traveling to our state and spending their funds to see meadowlarks; they are coming here to view our cranes."

A survey revealed that in 1987, Nebraskans spent nearly \$97,000,000 to observe, feed, or photograph wildlife. Over \$26,000,000 of this was spent in the Platte River Valley, most of it by tourists observing the cranes. The survey said that 30% of Nebraskans, or about 540,000 people, had travelled to see the Sandhill Cranes at least once.

Nebraskans not convinced

But these eloquent arguments failed to convince a majority of Nebraskans. A poll conducted shortly after the bill was killed in committee showed that 59% of 621 registered voters approved the decision to keep the Western Meadowlark as avian ambassador for the state. Twenty-two percent said that they disapproved—presumably these people are in the "crane camp."

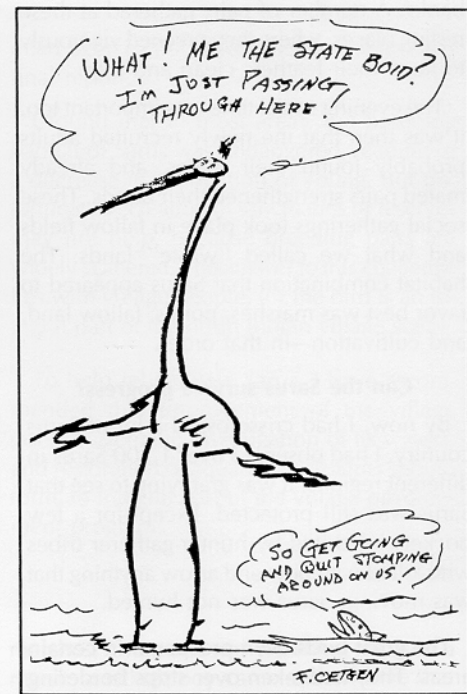
Many people objected to deposing the meadowlark because the migratory Sandhill Crane deserts the site for six months each year. The more faithful meadowlark not only breeds locally, but stays year round.

Faanes counterattacked with library research showing that 18 states have state birds that do not stay year round. Six states use the Western Meadowlark as their state bird, while no state currently honors the Sandhill Crane. Nigeria, Uganda, and South Africa use other species of cranes as national symbols.

The debate became taxing when it was discovered that the Sandhill Crane was already on the front cover of Nebraska state tax forms...the one document nearly everyone reads.

Debate benefits cranes

To strike a more serious note, the publicity generated over the debate was important, because critical habitat for both Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes along the Platte River is under attack. The cranes depend on finding sandbars flooded by high



The campaign to name the Sandhill Crane as Nebraska's state bird brought the cranes and habitat conservation issues before the public. Cartoon by Fred Oetgen.

water for safe roosting at night. Spring floods also keep vegetation in check, so the cranes can spot approaching predators.

But upstream dams and diversions for agriculture have reduced spring flows of the river to the point that vegetation is choking the channel. The proposed Two Forks Dam on the South Platte River in Colorado has received several setbacks recently, but the operating license for the Kingsley Dam is now up for renewal. Naming the Sandhill Cranes as state bird would not only help with these battles, but promote tourism that has both economic and educational benefits.

The debate over Nebraska's state bird reveals an emerging international perspective for conservation. While the stay-at-home meadowlark still clings to the crown, the intercontinental crane is raising people's awareness.

Rev. Lonnie Logan expressed this cosmopolitan view in portions of a letter he sent to the *Grand Island Independent*. He said it was fitting to honor a bird that migrates through the state: "We [Nebraskans] proclaim our interconnectedness with all of creation. Our voice speaks for the global village, from the northern tundra of Alaska to the southern flats of Mexico, woven together like fine fabric with the meandering shallows of the Platte."

Logan concluded with a postscript for the cranes: "Don't forget to share our Nebraska greetings with our sisters and brothers north and south (gar-oo-oo, gar-oo-oo)."

The Bottom Line

by Bob Hallam
Development Coordinator

Last year's fall issue of the *Bugle* contained a "special gift envelope" which gave each member a chance to support a particular ICF program of his or her personal interest.

The special gift money helped advance habitat programs at ICF and in Vietnam. At ICF, we improved our ability to conduct prescribed burns in our prairies and oak savannas by purchasing walkie talkies. The radios help fire teams to coordinate their actions across smoke and flame to conduct burns efficiently and safely.

For our work in Vietnam, your money has purchased a LANDSAT satellite image that will be used to quantify the hydrological conditions both inside and outside of Tram Chim. This is the critical nature reserve our Vietnamese colleagues established to protect the wintering habitat for endangered Eastern Sarus Cranes.

Aviculture used their funds to purchase camera equipment to document research projects and medical procedures, and for identification of parasites.

Contributions received for "International Education" allowed us to buy a spotting telescope and tripod for use in field trips for foreigners participating in our International



A three-day-old Sandhill Crane chick named Lupine cavorts in its brooder box. This year, ICF raised 20 chicks, and sales in the gift shop set new records. Photo by D. Thompson.

Training Program. With these funds, we also are printing our new International Education Packet, a school curriculum designed to introduce ICF's international conservation efforts to school children throughout North America. The packet includes a pilot project to allow children in America to exchange artwork and other materials on conservation with children in schools near important crane reserves in Asia or Africa. Your contributions

in last year's gift envelope are funding this exchange for the first year.

Finally, photographic materials were prepared for distribution to delegates to the 1989 Asian Crane Congress.

The staff wishes to thank all our members for their continued faithful support, and we hope you will renew your "special gift to the cranes."

Contributions

Received July - September 1989

Grants and Awards: Alma Doten Fund; Badger Meter Foundation; Lady Dorothy Bouchier; Mary Griggs Burke; Henry T. Chandler; Chapman Foundation; Victoria Cohen; James R. Compton; Thomas Foley; Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; Betsy Getz; Daniele Heinen; Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation; Institute of Museum Services; Robert Ledger; Ruth Ann Ledger; Margaret Lison; Richard Lohr; Marshall & Ilesley Foundation; Joyce Martin; Mr. & Mrs. Oscar G. Mayer; National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; Charles Nelson; J.C. Ottinger; Patagonia, Inc.; George A. Ranney, Sr.; Mrs. John Stedman; Mrs. Willis Sullivan; Jocelyn Taylor; Dr. Samuel G. Taylor; George Gund Foundation; Trust for Mutual Understanding; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Vilter Foundation, Inc.; Walter Schroeder Foundation, Inc.; Wildcat Foundation; Wisconsin Energy Corporation Foundation, Inc.

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New Fax Machine

ICF has installed a telefax machine that has already proved indispensable. We have "faxed" documents to the USSR, China, Canada, and numerous locations within the US.

We wish to thank the following people: Mr. & Mrs. Ronald M. Buege; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Brownsmith; John Canfield; Marion Hill; Judy Kapture; Mr. & Mrs. Daniel J. Kilby; Mrs. Bruce Krik; Rosemary Kwilosz; Hope McCormick; Dr. Margaret Winston.

ICF's Bird-a-thon Raises \$16,000

With money is still coming in, ICF's first Bird-a-thon has raised almost \$16,000! Once again, we wish to thank all who supported the Bird-a-thon.

Three teams, consisting of Lisa Kreuger with Carson Mettel, Karen Hale, and Michael Putnam, raised the most money. Each team will receive a framed, limited edition print by Owen Gromme entitled "Trumpeter Swans— A New Beginning," and a book entitled *The World of Owen Gromme*.

Carol Konkol, Jane Zubar, Robert Adams, Bert and Bette Johnson, Kate Olsen and Kris Smith, Mimi Corneli, and Marta Trimble finished fourth through tenth, respectively. They will also receive the book *The World of Owen Gromme*.

A special thanks goes to ICF Trustee Mark Lefebvre of Stanton & Lee in Madison, Wisconsin for donating the prizes.

Members Invited for Work Trip to China

ICF is organizing a work trip to Zhalong Nature Reserve, one of the largest wetlands in Asia. It serves as a home to six species of cranes. The trip will provide a vivid experience of the challenges and opportunities of China's network of nature reserves.

The trip is planned for 20 days in June/early July 1990. We prefer volunteers with bird watching, photography, or related skills, or with a special interest in public education. Participants should be in good health, but there will be no strenuous activities. All costs are tax deductible. Write Jim Harris at ICF for details.



Songklod Phutong (left) and Siriporn Thongaree hold the first Sarus Crane egg laid in Thailand in recent decades. Photo by George Archibald.

A Birthday Gift for the Queen

The Eastern Sarus Crane is an endangered subspecies. Although several thousand breed in Australia, the bird's status in Asia is tenuous, with about a thousand wintering in southern Vietnam; their breeding area is unknown. Sarus Cranes once lived in Thailand, but they disappeared, probably because of hunting and drainage of wetlands.

Since 1984, ICF has collaborated with

Thailand's Royal Forest Department in a project for returning the cranes to the wild. In November of that year, six young Sarus emigrated from aviaries near Baraboo to aviaries near Bangphra and were presented to Queen Sirikit, the patron of the project.

Last summer, a female named "Aussie" laid her first egg. Unfortunately it was infertile. This summer, an egg parented by Aussie and "Boonsong" hatched on August 12, the Queen's birthday. Congratulations to our Thai colleagues as they strive to return Sarus Cranes to their verdant countryside!

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International Crane Foundation

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