

THE ICF BUGLE

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World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes



Soviet-Chinese Delegation Visits ICF

By Jim Harris, Deputy Director

A few decades ago, the Amur River ran through a land of tall trees and wide marshes hardly touched by people. Tigers stalked the spotted deer. In summer, cranes guarded the reed beds and wet meadows, tending their young until winter drove the flocks southward. The cranes returned each March to find shallow waters just thawing.

Today Red-crowned and White-naped Cranes still return to Amur lowlands to raise long legged chicks. But with most of the wetlands gone and remaining wetlands heavily exploited, the cranes are endangered. On the Chinese side of the river, large numbers of people have moved up from provinces to the south, developing a wilderness the tigers have almost abandoned. In winter, people even cut the reeds, leaving no nest cover for marsh birds in spring. On the Soviet side of the river, the settlers came from lands far to the west. Vast woodlands and wetlands have become farms. When the local people burn the wetlands in spring to improve grazing, crane nests are destroyed.

This border region has more crane species than anywhere else, because the vast wetlands provide good breeding and stopover areas, and because it's a corridor for migrations. In other parts of Asia, mountains and deserts have blocked the movement of birds and other wildlife from north to south. But in this far eastern region, a moist climate and lack of high mountains allows countless numbers of birds to pass north through eastern China, across the Amur River, and into Siberia. The Siberian Crane migrates through, while five species breed in the area—Red-crowned, White-naped, Hooded,

Common, and Demoiselle Cranes.

Improved relations spur development

Decades of tension have kept earth's largest standing armies facing each other across the Amur. Recent years have seen improved relations between the two countries, and trade is increasing among the border towns. The two governments are studying the possibility of constructing three dams on the Amur, although the impacts on wetlands and cranes have not yet been assessed. If the two countries can cooperate for development, they can and must cooperate for the conservation of wildlife threatened by development.

Cranes especially depend on cooperation between nations, because of their long migrations. This theme has guided efforts at the International Crane Foundation (ICF) and is a key similarity between recovery activities

in North America and those in Asia. This summer, 11 Whooping Crane chicks hatched at ICF from eggs laid in northwestern Canada. They are the outcome of the carefully orchestrated recovery plans of the US and Canadian governments. Only close cooperation between the two countries, lasting over five decades, has enabled the Whooper to increase from just 15 birds to over 235 today.

The endangered cranes of eastern Asia are not yet so rare as the Whooper. But effective action between China and the Soviet Union should begin now, while the flocks are still large enough to give conservation a good chance of success in this rapidly developing region.

ICF has long worked with conservationists on both sides of the Amur, and scientists from both countries have met at the international

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Because cranes frequently fly across international boundaries, their conservation depends on cooperation between nations. Recently ICF hosted delegations of Soviet and Chinese specialists to discuss the conservation of cranes using wetlands along their mutual border. Photo of Red-crowned Crane by Bill Gause.

Cuban Sandhills Still Declining

Craig Faanes, Ornithologist
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Grand Island, NE 68801

As I stepped from the Soviet-built Tupolev jet at Varadero airport in March of 1990, two years of haggling with the State Department about travel to Cuba seemed worth the effort for I was finally in the "forbidden" country. My quest was the endangered Cuban Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis nesiotus*), a bird that had not been studied by Americans since Walkinshaw in the 1950's.

The Immigration Officer took an extended interest in my passport with its stampings from Grenada, Honduras, Panama, Guatemala, and other CIA hotspots, but finally accepted my bird story. Soon we met two ornithologists from the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural and left for our hotel at the Bay of Pigs on the south coast.

Accompanied by Chris Haney of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, we hoped to find Cuban cranes. My principal objective was to make contacts with Cuban ornithologists and lay the groundwork for more detailed studies of Cuban Sandhill Cranes in the future.

Searching for cranes

Zapata Swamp National Park is a huge area of mixed upland and wetland habitats that forms a "thumb" on the map of southern Cuba. The National Park was established to protect a representative sample of the diverse habitats occurring on Zapata Peninsula, including those used by the three bird species endemic to the Swamp: Zapata Rail, Zapata Wren, and Zapata Sparrow. Our first two days were spent in southern portions of the swamp—primarily forested areas good for Cuban Trogons and Bare-legged Owls, but not cranes. We also traveled by boat from Guama toward Treasure Lake to search open wetland habitat. The sawgrass habitat we passed was very similar to Everglades National Park where my observations suggested that cranes do not frequent sawgrass areas.

Success

Finally on our third day we drove along the coast toward Las Salinas, an abandoned salt drying operation in Zapata Swamp National Park.

Although our National Park entrance papers were in order, numerous "officials" examined them in intricate detail. After a short search of the dry upland vegetation adjacent to the mangroves, we found a pair

of Cuban Sandhills. West Indian hardwood hammock vegetation, the predominant habitat type of dry upland sites in Zapata National Park, formed a dense perimeter to the crane foraging habitat. After a few moments, the birds disappeared into the hardwoods. Unlike the wetland-dependent Sandhills in North America, the Cuban birds live in dry upland grasslands and dense hammock vegetation.

We also heard two more cranes calling from the northeast. After getting over the excitement of seeing this enigmatic bird, our Cuban companions told us of the current status of the Cuban Sandhill.

In the early 1950's, Walkinshaw estimated that the total population was about 200 individuals. Most of them were on the Isle of Pines and Zapata Swamp. Forty years later, only 54 birds remain: 20 on the Isle of Pines; 20 in the Zapata Swamp; 14 in Camaguey Province. That's all!

Trade embargo hurts cranes

Human threats to these birds are many. Zapata National Park is woefully understaffed, resulting in little protection of the birds from poachers. We found the Cubans to be extremely friendly people, despite their being curious about novel "Americano" visitors. But curiously, US government policy toward Cuba may be contributing indirectly to destruction of crane habitat through deforestation. At present only about 12 percent of Cuba remains forested. The US policy toward Cuba includes an embargo on trade. This makes it difficult to obtain sufficient quantities of oil products, so charcoal is used

to fuel many sugar cane factories and other industries. Consequently, the Cuban's inability to obtain oil products is forcing them to further deforest their island.

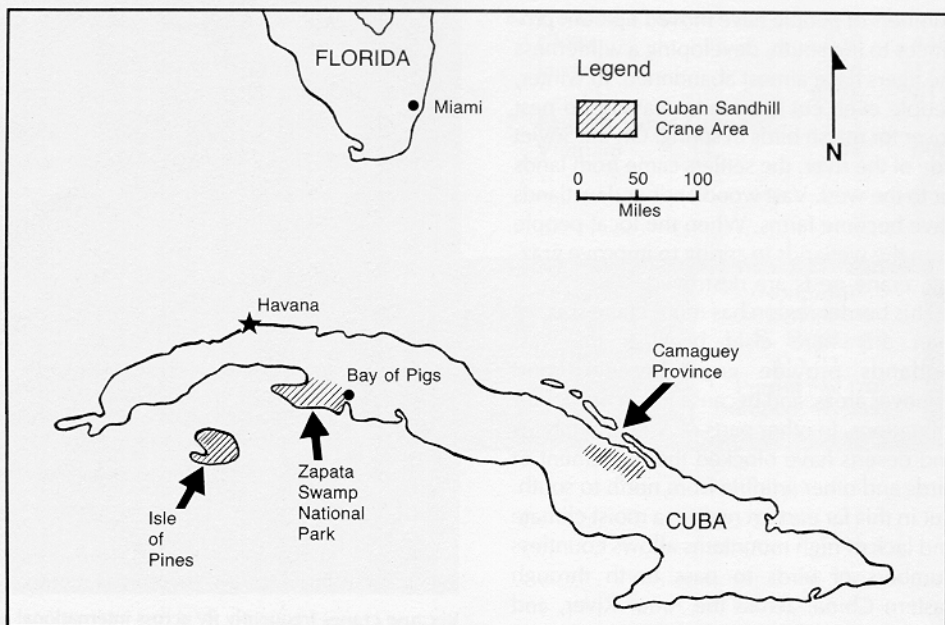
Cuban ornithology today is at the stage of development of American ornithology 100 years ago. The Cubans are desperate for assistance from American biologists in saving Cuba's natural heritage. But Cubans are hindered by a lack of money, equipment and expertise.

Developing a conservation strategy

I have been invited back to Cuba for three weeks in 1991 to study the Cuban cranes in greater detail. Objectives of the work will be to determine more precisely the population status of the crane, and to quantify their habitat. This information will be used by the Cubans in developing a conservation plan for the remaining birds. I also hope to teach the Cubans about crane census techniques, habitat analysis techniques, and methods for studying crane behavior.

Ornithologists in the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural expressed a pressing desire to develop captive propagation techniques to supplement their wild population of cranes.

As is the case in so much of the Third World, conservation problems for Cuba are immense. Focusing our attention on conservation rather than political ideology might be one way to improve relations with our neighbors in Cuba. Because a concern for cranes has been instrumental in improving relations between other neighboring countries, Cuba could present the next opportunity for cranes to serve as a bridge for peace.



Ornithologist Craig Faanes recently visited Cuba in search of the Cuban Sandhill Crane, an endangered subspecies not seen by Americans since the 1950s. The Cubans report that only 54 birds remain, living within the three shaded areas on the map.

Whooping Crane Eggs Come to ICF

by Tom Mahan, ICF Aviculturist

This year's Memorial Day, 1990, will long be remembered at ICF. Another chapter in crane conservation at Baraboo began when Whooping Crane eggs, collected in Wood Buffalo National Park, northern Alberta, were brought to ICF for the first time. Wood Buffalo Park is the only known breeding area for the endangered Whooping Crane. Twelve eggs were collected from 12 nests, and only one egg was infertile. Once reared, the 11 chicks will join our "flock" of 22 adult and subadult Whooping Cranes. Approximately 14 percent of all Whooping Cranes alive may soon be at ICF.

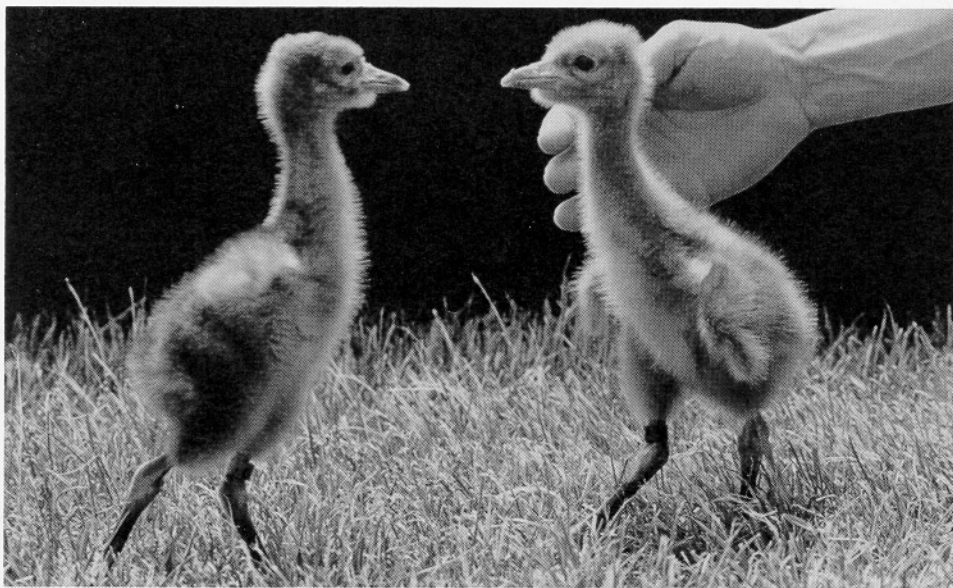
Since 1967, Whooping Crane eggs have been taken from nests of wild birds and used to build a captive flock at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Although Whooping Cranes lay two eggs, they are seldom able to raise more than one chick, hence removal of a single egg does not hinder growth of the wild population.

Heading north

The egg lift this year was made possible through the generosity of Terry and Mary Kohler of the Windway Foundation; the Kohlers graciously donated the use of a twin engine jet and accompanied the eggs. I was also on board, responsible for the health and safety of the precious crane eggs. We took off early on the morning of May 28 from Chetek, Wisconsin, and headed northwest to Fort Smith, Alberta. It was not until we cleared customs in Brandon, Manitoba, that I felt the excitement of this major event.

The eggs were collected the day before our trip by Ernie Kuyt, a Canadian Wildlife Service biologist and an expert on the Whooping Cranes at Wood Buffalo. He was accompanied by three other authorities on Whooping Cranes—Brian Johns, Rod Drewien, and Jim Lewis. Using a helicopter, they visited twenty Whooper nests, and by swapping fertile eggs for infertile eggs, they made sure that each nest retained at least one viable egg. Extra eggs were brought back to Fort Smith and placed in an incubator, where they waited for our arrival the following day.

Ernie Kuyt and Jim Lewis were waiting to greet us when we landed on the Fort Smith runway at noon. When I first saw the eggs, I just stood and stared. I could not believe I was actually there to take over the care of twelve Whooping Crane eggs. Then Kuyt and Drewien began to carefully transfer the eggs from the incubator to special suitcases. The suitcases had compartments for the eggs cut



A human "chick parent" intervenes as two Whooping Crane chicks square off for battle in the chick yard. During their first week, the chicks are especially aggressive, and require constant supervision. In the wild, parents are seldom able to raise more than one chick. Photo by David H. Thompson.

from foam, and were heated with hot water bottles. Before the suitcases received the eggs, they were warmed to just the right temperature.

The journey home

Once the eggs were packed we headed back to the plane. Jim Lewis joined us for the ride to Baraboo. He and I shared in regulating the temperature inside the egg cases. The egg cases must be monitored closely because the temperature inside can fluctuate quickly. Crane eggs develop best when incubated at 99.0-99.5°F. Eggs can withstand lower temperatures for short periods of time, but a rise of one degree or more above this optimum can be lethal.

About once an hour to maintain the right temperature, we added hot water from a coffee dispenser on the plane to bottles in the suitcases. If the cases became too warm, we opened the lid slightly to allow heat to escape. The temperature in the case can increase very quickly, so we were careful not to add too much hot water at once. Most of the trip to Baraboo was spent staring at the thermometers protruding from the egg cases, then doing everything we could to ensure the inflight comfort of eleven tiny embryos.

The effect of high altitude on eggs is unknown, so even the cabin pressure was kept near that of sea level.

The flight back to Baraboo took nearly five hours, including half an hour for refueling and customs in Minot, North Dakota. We arrived in Baraboo at 7:15 p.m., greeted by smiles from ICF staff and friends. The eggs were quickly taken to ICF, and placed in two incubators—the six oldest in one and the six

youngest in the other. From the eggs' rather limited point of view, the total time from incubator in Alberta to incubator in Wisconsin was only six hours.

After the eggs were safely set in ICF incubators, I felt a great weight slide from my shoulders. The eggs had made it without any problem. In fact, they probably fared better than I did, because the round trip took almost twelve long hours. Our only accident occurred when the spigot on the coffee dispenser jammed, pouring coffee into the sink. Terry Kohler exclaimed that this was "the worst mishap I've had on this plane."

All the fertile eggs hatch

On May 29, the day after the eggs arrived, five of them moved on the table when I made a crane-like "purring" sound. Two of those five also peeped in response! It was quite an exciting moment. The two that were peeping were taken to the hatcher, and on May 31, they became the first Whooping Cranes to hatch at ICF since 1982! All eleven chicks have now hatched successfully and are raising havoc in the chick yard.

Crane eggs have been successfully transported by researchers for a number of years. There is always excitement before, during, and after the trip, but along with that comes the concern that something may put the eggs in jeopardy.

The shipment was symbolic of the cooperative efforts that have made Whooping Crane recovery a reality. Government researchers, volunteers, and private foundation staff—both Americans and Canadians—all joined together to make something very important happen.

Soviet-Chinese Delegation

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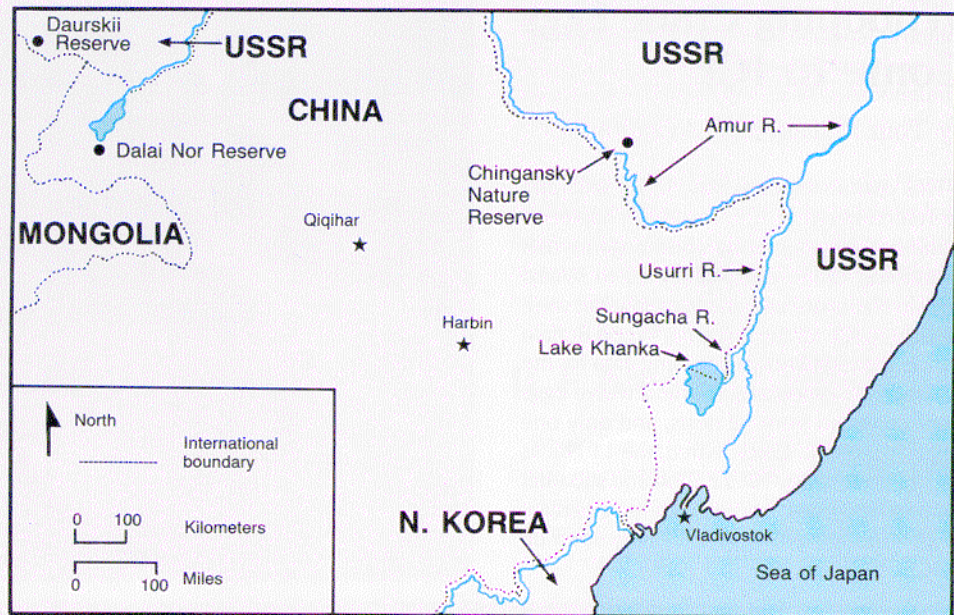
crane workshops. The workshop held in India in 1983 allowed Soviet, Chinese, and Japanese scientists to plan a coordinated breeding count for the Red-crowned Crane—a survey successfully achieved in 1984.

In 1989, ICF sponsored four Chinese participants at the Palearctic Crane Workshop in Estonia. Chinese and Soviets had a chance to discuss shared concerns about the wetlands along Lake Khanka, a border region just south of the Amur River. At the end of the four-day meeting, a resolution was sent to both governments to suggest that Khanka's wetlands be protected as critical nesting habitat for cranes. Conservationists in the USSR had urged their leaders to take such action for more than six decades. The Estonia resolution precipitated a positive response in Moscow, and now plans are underway to save the wetlands on the Soviet side of the great lake.

Delegates come to ICF

But the talks in Estonia were just a beginning. A longer dialogue was needed, so George Archibald proposed that ICF invite specialists from both sides of the border to visit Baraboo for a month of study and discussion.

ICF hosts numerous foreign visitors, and gradually we have become familiar with the formalities of delegate selection, visas, and air tickets. Our arrangements are usually successful, but Chinese and Soviet delegations have always been the most difficult to set up, and sometimes delegates have been a year or more late in arriving. To bring delegations



The far-eastern border between the USSR and China has more crane species than anywhere else, but the relaxation of tensions there is spurring development that threatens the cranes. ICF recently brought together specialists from both countries to discuss plans for conservation.

from both countries to ICF—at the same time—seemed like a dream.

The Soviets received their visas only a day before their departure, while we had to postpone air reservations for the Chinese twice, first by one week and then by a second week. The five Soviets arrived on April 2, the two Chinese on April 14. The Soviets, Chinese, and Americans would have only two weeks together before the Soviets departed at the end of the month, instead of the four weeks originally planned.

The late arrival of the Chinese provided an

opportunity to send the Soviets on a field trip to Nebraska, where they observed congregation of hundreds of thousands of Sandhill Cranes on sandbars along the Platte River. Most of these cranes breed in northern Canada, Alaska and eastern Siberia, then winter in the southwestern USA and northern Mexico. Their arrival in early spring creates one of earth's greatest wildlife spectacles.

The Soviets learned that great progress has been made in saving the Platte's flow from water development projects, through the efforts of the government and several private organizations, including the Platte River Whooping Crane Trust and the National Audubon Society.

The Soviets returned to ICF near Baraboo, where short-term housing is difficult to find. We found the Soviets a rustic condominium near Wisconsin Dells, with a smaller one next door for the Chinese. We Americans rented a 12-passenger van, to bring both delegations to ICF to learn about our conservation programs, or to tour wetlands, nature reserves, and resource agencies in Wisconsin and Minnesota. For our talks about Asia we gathered in the living room of the Soviet condominium. At lunchtime, the two kitchens prepared foods that looked, tasted, and smelled differently, while the Americans drove back to the ICF lounge for lunch. Three menus and three languages—but we all shared a passion for cranes, and we all enjoyed potato chips while we talked.

A vision for future cooperation

We met not as officials representing our countries but as scientists with a shared hope. Because relations between the three countries



Along the eastern border between China and the USSR, several hundred magnificent Red-crowned Cranes still nest on vast expanses of open shallow wetlands, habitats now threatened by agriculture and dams. Photo by Yuri Shibnyev.

are so complex and changing, we did not issue joint resolutions to the various governments or to the press. We did write short summaries of our talks. Perhaps the most important result was getting to know each other and our work. And we developed ideas and a vision for future cooperation.

For some years, scientists have talked of achieving joint action on behalf of the Red-crowned Cranes and wetlands of the Lake Khanka area. Perhaps an international nature reserve could be established here, incorporating wetlands on both sides of the border. Mechanisms would have to be created, through which managers from the two countries would coordinate their protection and research programs. Once established, these mechanisms might encourage broader discussions of conservation in the Amur Basin.

A glimpse of China

I had visited the Lake Khanka area in the summer of 1988 from the Chinese side. It reminded me of North America's Great Lakes—too wide to see across, and with turbid waters more like Lake Michigan than Lake Superior. Oaks and pines (like our Mid-western pines) lined the shores. There were beaches where tourists stood with toes in the chill water. Here I stayed at a large hotel and watched the waves moving beyond the tops of the oaks. The birds were both familiar and strange—bitterns almost like ours hiding among the vegetation, White-winged Black Terns skimming over the lakes, Golden Orioles in the woods, and Barn Swallows overhead. But Hoopoes flushed from the roadside, with curved bills and long crests.

Already the Chinese have protected as a nature reserve 22,000 hectares of wetlands at the outflow of Lake Khanka where the border between the two nations is formed by the Sungacha River. As I walked along this marsh, the grasses were soon over my waist, ferns and yellow flowers at my feet. In the deep marsh, you can hardly see the cranes in July. The vegetation hides them except for brief moments when black, white, and red heads rise over the green. I could not see Whooper Swans either, or the Eastern White Storks, although the reserve is one of the few places in China where the storks nest successfully.

Poaching brings military patrols

Human disturbance is relatively low in this sensitive border area. Poaching isn't a problem, because gunshots bring military patrols to investigate. But across the vast marsh I could see dikes. Northeast, the land has been reclaimed for farms. The reclamation continues in areas further north along the Songacha and Ussuri Rivers.

On the Soviet side, the wetlands haven't



Chinese, Soviet and American specialists meet in central Wisconsin to discuss plans whereby international efforts can be coordinated to assure the survival of cranes and their wetlands. Clockwise from left: Feng Kemin, Yuri B. Shibnyev, Valentin Iliashenko, Yuri Shibaev, Vladimir Andronov, George Archibald, Sergei Smirenski, Jim Harris, Maria Cherkasova, and Wang Hui. Photo by David H. Thompson.

yet been placed into a reserve. But following the Estonia crane meeting, Soviet delegates moved rapidly with plans for a new reserve, and they have begun the process of obtaining approvals from the different levels of government. They came to ICF with maps of the proposed protection areas and hopes that the reserve might be created before the end of this year.

In the Soviet condominium, we discussed plans for conserving the Lake Khanka region. We agreed that on the Soviet side, the chief goal was to secure the reserve. On the Chinese side, we hoped the present reserve could be upgraded to a provincial-level or a national-level reserve. The reserve should also be enlarged to include presently unprotected wetlands. Formal liking of the two reserves could happen later.

We discussed the six cranes in general, particularly the Red-crowned and White-naped Cranes because their breeding ranges are centered in the border region. We outlined research needs. Because nesting cranes are easily observed from low-flying aircraft while ground surveys are extremely difficult, we decided that aerial surveys should be conducted every five years. In this way, the breeding population can be monitored, and conservation problems can be documented.

Individual cranes should be color marked on the breeding grounds, to learn more about population dynamics. It is particularly important to discover the specific wintering areas of cranes that nest around Lake Khanka. If satellite telemetry can be successfully used with Common Cranes, the technique should be applied to cranes of the border region, as

their migration routes and nesting habitats are unknown and unprotected.

Common conservation problems

Conservation problems are similar in the two countries. Most urgently, nesting habitats need protection by expanding nature reserves, educating local people about cranes and promoting wise use of wetland resources. Agricultural development and dam building will inevitably continue to satisfy pressing human needs, but should be carefully integrated with and balanced by conservation programs.

For White-naped Cranes, special emphasis must be placed on the protection of shallow portions of wetlands and nearby grasslands. Some of the most important wetlands for White-naped occur in the region where China, Mongolia, and the USSR meet. Nature reserves have been established in the Chinese (Dalai Nor Nature Reserve) and Soviet (Daurkii Nature Reserve) areas of this region, and it is hoped that a reserve will be established in Mongolia. Eventually, the three countries should work together to establish an international nature reserve.

The proposed dams on the Amur highlight the need for continued dialogue among scientists. We laid plans for researchers from China, the USSR, North Korea, South Korea, and Japan to meet at Chingansky Nature Reserve, USSR, in the summer of 1992. They will report on the status of Red-crowned Cranes, White-naped Cranes, Hooded Cranes and Eastern White Storks at critical wetlands throughout the ranges of the four species.

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Delegation

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Following the 1992 workshop, we hope Chinese and Soviet scientists will meet yearly.

All of us gathered in Baraboo for the two weeks in April felt the excitement that came from at last engaging in a dialogue involving our three huge and vastly different countries. Those of us from ICF saw with fresh eyes that the yellow-eyed Whoopers are the living result of fifty years of cooperation. The Red-crowned Cranes of eastern Asia need fifty years . . . and more. It was an honor to take the first steps down that long road of cooperation.

* * *

Visits of the two delegations were supported by grants from the Trust for Mutual

Understanding, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, and the Soros Foundation-Soviet Union. The Institute of Environmental Studies of the University of Wisconsin-Madison co-sponsored the visit of the Chinese.

Many individuals and organizations assisted with field trips and information about American programs. We wish to thank Don & Ellen Padley and Ken & Marie Strom; for help with the field trip to Horicon, we thank Dick Birger, Jon Bergquist, Glen Eveland, Steve Miller, Donald Rusch, and Steve Wilds; for the waterfowl management trip, Kathy Cheap, Jim Gritman, William Harrison, Charles Kjos, Carl Korschgen, Jim Lennartson, John Leonard, Carl Madsen, Harvey Nelson, Jim Nisson, Dave Sharp, Bill Thrune, and Laurie Wlosinski; for the Prairie Chicken field trip, Jim Kerr; for assistance with visas, Ann

Chambers, Cal DeWitt, Dave Musolf, and Irene Wren; for a tour of the National Wildlife Health Lab, Chris Brand and Nancy Thomas; and for a tour of the Univ. of Wis. Arboretum, Virginia Kline.

Editor's note: As we go to press, Jim Harris sends word from China that Lake Khanka has been approved as a provincial-level nature reserve, with enlarged boundaries to include more wetlands.

ICF Needs Grills

Several times a year, ICF hosts a picnic for board members, volunteers, or staff. So we're seeking donations toward the purchase of two gas grills, and for ice chests. We will also accept used grills, if in top condition.

Contributions

Received April - May - June 1990

Grants and Awards: Robert Beard; Citizens Natural Resources Association; DEC International-Albrecht Foundation; Thomas E. Donnelley, II Foundation; Earthwatch Expeditions, Inc.; Evjue Foundation, Inc.; Karen E. Galley; Grootemaat Foundation, Inc.; H. J. Hagge Foundation, Inc.; Gordon D. Hammel; Institute of Museum Services; Jane & Lloyd Pettit Foundation, Inc.; Johnson Company, Ltd. (Japan); The Johnson's Wax Fund, Inc.; Junior Woman's Club of Racine, Inc.; Elizabeth S. Kirkpatrick Fund; Edna

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Major Bird-a-thon Donations: Eleanor Briggs; Fan Brown; John E. Canfield; Mr. & Mrs. Henry T. Chandler; Mr. & Mrs. Bill Clark; John & Judy Day; Raymond De Clairville; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Donnelley, II; Philip K. Effinger; Mrs. H. B. Griswold; Larry & Carol Klapmeier; Warren P. Knowles; Mrs. Glen A. Lloyd; Paul Lonac & Peggy Keigher; Brooks Mc Cormick; Charles Nelson; James Nelson; John Ottinger; Mr. & Mrs. William Piel; George A. Ranney, Sr.; Mr. Donald Sauey; Mr. W. R. Sauey; Agee Shelton.

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



More Special Tours at ICF

Saturday, August 25, is a special day at ICF, featuring four unusual tours. You can even include a "chick walk" at 11:30 a.m. and one of the regular tours at 10, 1, or 3 for a full day of fun!

There is no extra charge for the special tours, but for non-members there is the normal admission charge to the site: \$3.75 for adults, \$3.25 for seniors, and \$1.75 for children (ages 5-11). If you wish to leave ICF for lunch, you can ask for a pass to return after lunch without additional charge.

All About Displays - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Birds have a simple system of signals based on calls and postures. Find out with Scott Swengel how cranes communicate.

All About Rearing Chicks - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Marianne Wellington talks about how ICF raises chicks, shows some techniques, and points out the meaning of chick behaviors.

Tour of Crane City - 12:45 - 2:00 p.m.

Learn why ICF's crane condos are so comfortable, and find out about the birds who live there. Curator of Birds Claire Mirande shows ICF's breeding facility, which is usually closed to the public.

Butterflies & Their Plants - 2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

After a slide show to help with identification, we'll go out and learn how to recognize when they are nectaring, drinking, courting, and defending territories. Many new species will have appeared since the June 30 class. Instructors: Ann and Scott Swengel.

2nd Annual Bird-a-thon Another Success!

by Bob Hallam

ICF's 2nd annual Bird-a-thon has already raised over \$13,500 in cash and pledges. ICF's crack team, consisting of Jim Harris, Deputy Director, and Scott Swengel, Assistant Curator of Birds, raised over \$2,800 by identifying 179 birds on their "big day." ICF Director George Archibald and Education Director David Thompson increased their count this year to 121 birds, raising in the process over \$1,800.

We wish to thank all who participated in the Bird-a-thon. Half of the dollars raised will go to the Ron Sauey Fund, which continues to grow and is expected to reach \$77,000 soon. At the end of August, those who are in the "top ten" list of counters will be notified about the prizes each has won. Those who pledged an amount per species will be receiving a letter about each team's activities on their respective big days.

ANNOUNCING:

The 16TH Annual Meeting of the International Crane Foundation Saturday, September 22, 1990

ICF members and their guests are invited to attend the annual meeting and dinner. Reservations are required, so please use the form provided below. Be sure to respond by September 1, since space is limited.

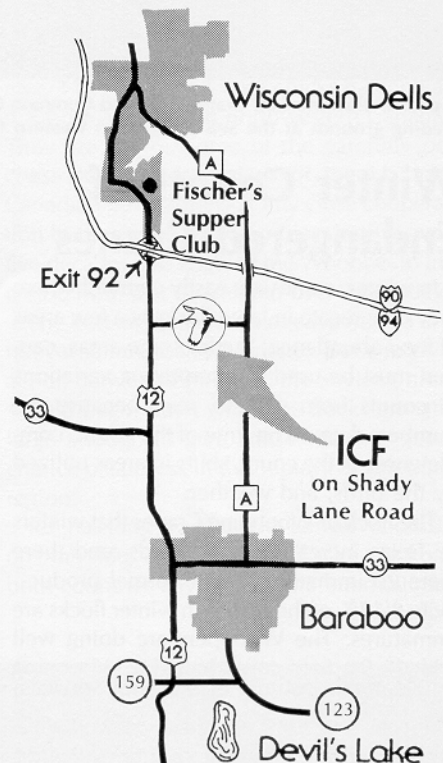
SCHEDULE

4:00 p.m. **TOURS**, for members and guests, of Crane City. Take advantage of this rare chance to visit our breeding facility. Also see "Trung Trung," the first Black-necked Crane chick hatched in North America, and our flock of Whooping Crane chicks.

5:30 p.m. **COCKTAILS** (cash bar) at Fischer's Supper Club, located on Rt. 12 just before you enter Lake Delton. Visit with our guests from China, Japan, and five African countries.

6:30 p.m. **BUFFET DINNER** at Fischer's Supper Club.

7:30 p.m. **ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM**
George Archibald will present a slide show entitled "Thirty Days in the Wilderness with the Siberian Cranes and the Soviets." Special tribute to Owen and Anne Gromme, and to Yumi Goto.



Please clip or copy, and mail to: ICF, E-11376 Shady Lane Road, Baraboo, WI 53913
Reservation deadline — September 1

_____ Please make dinner/program reservations for _____ people.
My check for \$12.50 each is enclosed.

_____ This will be my first time attending an ICF annual meeting.

_____ I cannot attend the meeting, but please send me a copy of the Annual Report.

Name: _____

Address: _____

two were shot in late February.

Professor Lu Jianjian of the East China Normal University in Shanghai is to be congratulated for coordinating counts by 78 persons involved in the Waterbird Research Network of China. We wish to thank many other colleagues for counting or sending data: **Bhutan**—Royal Bhutan Dept. of Forestry, Royal Society for the Protection of Nature; **China**—Du Jinjin, Guizhou Institute of Biology, Jin Songxiang, Jou Huangzu, Liu Xiping, Sheng Shaojin, Tibet Plateau Institute of Biology & ICF, Wang Hui, Xie Xuexian, & Yunnan Dept. of Forestry; **Iran**—B. Behrouzi-Rad & Ellen Vuosalo-Tavakoli; **Japan**—Kazumi Hironaka, Hiroyuki Masatomi, Sueharo Matano, Kiyooki Ozaki, & Yoshinaga Sawada; **USA**—James Lewis; **Vietnam**—Dung.

88-89 89-90

1. Whooping Crane	USA: Texas	132	141
	USA: New Mexico	13	13
		145	154
2. Black-necked Crane	Bhutan	297	299
	China	408	1310
	India	?	6
		705	1615
3. Red-crowned Crane	China	582	681
	Japan	416	446
	South Korea	147	?
		1145	1127
4. Siberian Crane	China	2657	1953
	India	21	17
	Iran	11-14	8-10
		2692	1980
5. White-naped Crane	China	3124	2716
	Japan	1534	1439
		4658	4155
6. Hooded Crane	China	850	440
	Japan	7526	7172
		8376	7612
7. Eastern Sarus Crane	Vietnam	721	800



A pair of Black-necked Cranes (left) and Common Cranes perform unison calls during a dispute on their feeding grounds at the Sea of Grass in western China.

Winter Counts of Endangered Cranes

In winter, cranes are easily counted where they congregate in large flocks at a few areas of food abundance. But for some areas, caution must be used in interpreting variations in counts from year to year, because the numbers depend on time of the count, completeness of the count, shifts in areas utilized by the birds, and weather.

The flock of Whooping Cranes that winters in Texas increased by 11 birds, and there were 20 immatures. With normal productivity 8-15% of the cranes in winter flocks are immatures. The Whoopers are doing well with 16.5% immatures. In Idaho, Whooping Crane eggs were not substituted into Sandhill Crane nests in 1989, and there was no indication of pairing among the 13 surviving birds.

Dr. Mary Bishop helped coordinate counts for Black-necked Cranes. A new site has been reported for Yunnan—Dashanbao—where

314 cranes were counted. We received the first winter count from Tibet (516 cranes), and Prakash Gole located a few pairs of cranes wintering in a formerly unexplored region of northeastern India, the Sangti Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.

Counts of Red-crowned Cranes were higher in both China and Japan, and for the first time in recent years, small groups were spotted in both Hunan and Henan provinces. In contrast, Siberian, White-naped and Hooded counts were lower, perhaps due to incomplete counts rather than a real decline in their numbers. Unfortunately, counts for Red-crowned, White-naped, and Hooded Cranes were not received from North and South Korea.

The most threatened flocks of cranes are those of the Siberian Cranes that breed in west Asia and winter in Iran and India. Only 17 cranes arrived in December at India's Keoladeo National Park, and then eight of them moved elsewhere. Of the 8-10 cranes wintering on the Caspian lowlands of Iran,

International Crane Foundation

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ICF's
Annual Meeting:
See Page 7.

