

# THE ICF BUGLE

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World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes

## An International Reserve Where Three Countries Meet

by Jim Harris, Deputy Director

From the hillside, I had a view forever lost in America. Grass stretched in all directions farther than I could see, interrupted only by the faint lines of two dirt roads and the distant glint of water where the white cranes summer. No houses, no fences, no telephone lines.

I stood halfway up the highest hill in the county. The slope below me glowed with color, where two hundred Inner Mongolians had gathered in traditional dress for a Buddhist festival. Almost as many horses grazed around them beside wooden carts, a few battered trucks, and pale yurts (like tents and still used by the semi-nomadic herdsmen). Above, the hill crest held the sharp points of prayer flags. Several groups of horsemen rode up the hill.

At the top, all dismounted to walk round the clustered flags, rooted in a pile of rocks. They poured white wine over the stones and scattered candy. This day was the Au Bao festival, happening twice a year in Mongolian lands as a ceremonial request for rain. Late June brings the annual rains. Only fourteen inches fall in the average year.

The Mongolian grasslands are pristine, yet poised at the edge of change, and politically divided. I stood in Inner Mongolia, a vast region in northcentral China, sharing a long, strictly controlled border with the Mongolian People's Republic, a sovereign nation. This Au Bao hill was only 30 miles from Mongolia. Seventy miles to the northwest, the grasslands rolled past another international border and into the Soviet Union.

Political changes in China, Mongolia, and the Soviet Union are now gradually opening their mutual borders to human traffic. Recent scientific surveys in all three countries have revealed that the Daurian Steppes, as the Russians call the Mongolian border region, still have highly diverse wildlife, and form the heart of the range for the endangered White-naped Crane.

ICF has worked for over a decade in both China and the Soviet Union, and since 1989 has facilitated discussions between crane conservationists of the two countries (see *ICF Bugle*, August 1990). However, this summer for the first time, we would attempt a meeting along the militarized border itself, close beside the cranes.

### Dalainor Reserve protects cranes

In Inner Mongolia, the richest grasslands lie in the northeast, surrounding Dalainor, a freshwater lake 50 miles long. The Inner

Mongolians have established Dalainor Nature Reserve here, nearly a million acres in size.

Dalainor's boundaries include human settlements; herdsmen, fishermen, and reed cutters move in and out of the reserve depending on the season. But the land supports few people. Dalainor, with a sparse human population, is strikingly different from reserves farther east in China, where many people live among the wildlife.

At Dalainor, most birds live on the grasslands and a scattering of wetlands, especially along two rivers that run from Mongolia into Dalainor. As with many of China's reserves, Dalainor Nature Reserve has core areas, where the staff attempt strict control of all human activities, surrounded by secondary or buffer zones where economic activities are allowed.

I was visiting Dalainor for three weeks  
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On the great grasslands of central Asia, Mongolian herdsmen gather each year for the Au Bao, a rain festival. Summer rains are vital for the herds of this dry region, and create wetlands important for six species of cranes. Photo by Jim Harris.

# A New Tune For An Ancient Harmony

by Mary Anne Bishop,  
ICF Research Associate

As we dodged sandbars in the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) River, the motor of our wooden ferry kept sputtering and stopping. We headed toward Samye, Tibet's first monastery and one of its most sacred sites. Suddenly three Black-necked Cranes flew over our boat and landed in sand dunes bordering the river. When we finally arrived on shore, the cranes were no longer visible, hidden among the dunes.

We jumped in the back of a waiting truck and began a bumpy, three mile trip through barren, sandy hills to Samye Monastery. Soon after the golden roof of the monastery came into view, we spotted a flock of 45 Black-necked Cranes peacefully feeding in the field just below. For all of us, it was a beautiful sight, symbolizing the harmony between Tibetan Buddhism and wildlife, and the fondness Tibetans have for the Black-necked Crane, called "Trung Trung" in their language.

## The world's least known crane

Although the Black-necked Crane is known as a supernatural "fairy" crane in Tibetan songs and folklore, very little is known about its ecology because the crane makes its home on the Tibetan Plateau, one of the most geographically and politically inaccessible areas on earth.

To fill some of the gaps in our knowledge,

the Brehm Fund for International Bird Conservation, along with ICF and the Tibet Plateau Institute of Biology (TPIB), initiated a two-year joint research project to study the wintering and breeding ecology of the Black-necked Crane in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. An international team was assembled to undertake research in the field. Jim Harkness and myself together represented ICF and the Brehm Fund. Chinese team members were Gu Binyuan and Cangjue Zhuoma from the TPIB, and Song Yanling from Beijing's Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Our research began on a brisk November morning in 1990, when Jim and I flew into Tibet's only commercial airport, Gonggar. We were the only foreigners on the plane, and upon our arrival in Lhasa, the Western population increased from 9 to 11 people.

In Lhasa we joined our Chinese colleagues, and over the next four months, our team of three women and two men travelled thousands of miles throughout south central Tibet, searching known and suspected wintering areas for cranes. Before and after these travels, we also lived for one month each at two of the wintering areas, Dongbugang and Tama.

## Cold nights, sunny days

Our research began with a month-long stay in the little village of Dongbugang. Although December is Tibet's coldest month, we soon found out that even at the village's elevation of 12,300 feet, the coldest nighttime temperature was 8°F. Infrequent snowfalls melted quickly. Days were sunny, with temperatures sometimes reaching over 40°F.

The people of Dongbugang live only 45

miles from Lhasa, yet they have a remarkably simple and traditional lifestyle. People make, grow, or barter for most necessities of life. There is no electricity, no running water, no school. The rituals of Tibetan Buddhism, an important part of daily life, are everywhere visible. Prayer flags flutter from the corners of every roof top, holy offerings made from barley flour and yak butter are presented to the gods, and symbols of good luck and protection are painted on front doors.

And like most Tibetan farmers, they practice a combination of animal husbandry and non-mechanized farming. From March until October they cultivate barley, the traditional Tibetan grain, along with smaller amounts of rapeseed, spring wheat and broad beans in the fields bordering the Lhasa River. During these months, they graze their herds of sheep and goats on the mountainside behind the village. In the winter, when the barren hillsides have little vegetation to offer, sheep graze on the barley stubble left in village fields.

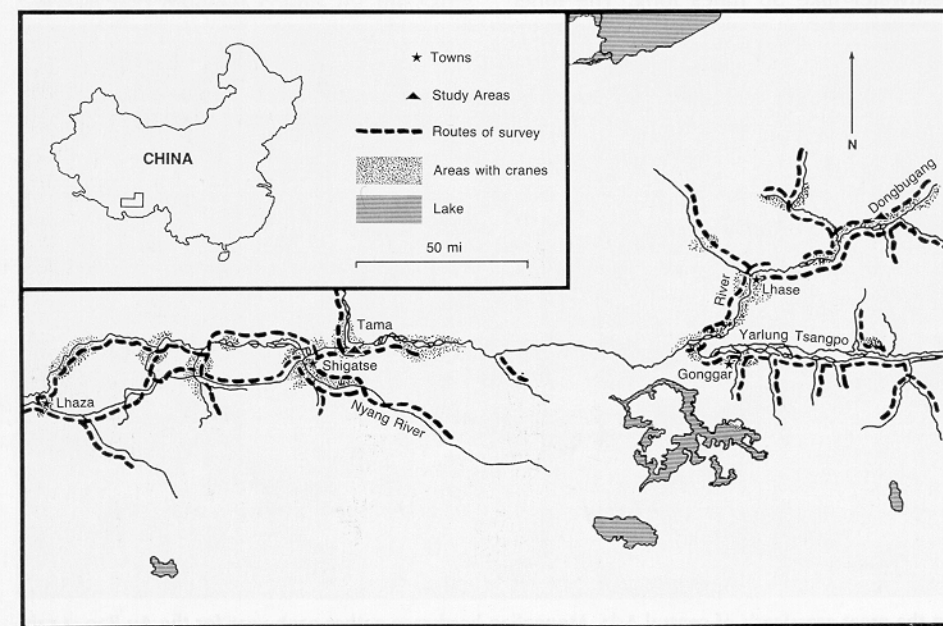
Our goal was to understand not only the cranes, but also the agricultural system on which they seem to depend for survival during the winter. We stayed in a two-story house in Dongbugang, where a rooftop perch commanded an unobstructed view of the surrounding farmland, grassy pastures and shores of the Lhasa River. Here we were able to study the cranes without disturbing them. From dawn to dusk every day we recorded data hourly, noting details of the cranes' habitat use and social behavior, as well as numbers and movements of domestic animals and humans within the study area. Right beside the livestock in the village fields—sometimes even among them—we saw Black-necked Cranes, *lots* of Black-necked Cranes. We observed between 140 and 225 cranes daily within an area of one square mile.

## Increasing mechanization

For our second period of detailed ecological observations, we chose Tama because it provided a contrast to the isolation of Dongbugang. We went to Tama for a month starting in February.

Although the village of Tama had only 73 families, it was situated in a commercial farming area along the Yarlung Tsangpo River, only 9 miles from Shigatse, Tibet's second largest city. We had selected this study area because it is slated for large-scale agricultural development as part of Tibet's "One River, Two Streams" development project, named for the Yarlung Tsangpo, Lhasa, and Nyang River Valleys.

Situated on the busy highway between Lhasa and Shigatse, Tama and surrounding villages illustrate the changes in agricultural



In early 1991, winter surveys led by Dr. Mary Anne Bishop found many more Black-necked Cranes than were previously known. The wintering cranes prefer wide valleys, traditional barley fields, and rivers wide enough to provide roosting habitat.

numbers in Bhutan pushed the second count to 1,560.

Our 1991 winter surveys were the most comprehensive to date in Tibet. With the help of our colleagues at the TPIB, we gained permission from regional, local and military authorities to visit almost all known and suspected wintering areas. From 1 January to 8 February, between our stays at Dongbugang and Tama, we explored dozens of valleys along the Lhasa, Nyang and Yarlung Tsangpo Rivers. Our efforts paid off. We located over 2800 cranes, bringing the total known world population to about 4025 Black-necked Cranes. The key characteristics for crane wintering areas seem to be wide valleys, waste barley, and proximity to rivers wide enough to provide roosting habitat.

### A new Black-necked Crane preserve

With about 70 percent of the known world population of Black-necked Cranes wintering in Tibet, the protection and management of key Tibetan wintering areas are important steps for conservation of the species. One of the most rewarding parts of our work this winter was finding enthusiastic support from local Tibetan leaders.

Before we left Tibet in mid March, we met with the mayor of Lhasa to report our findings. He informed us that he was designating the Pengbo River Valley in Linzhou County (approximately two hours north of Lhasa) as a nature reserve for wintering Black-necked Cranes and resident White-lipped Deer. Our research had documented for the first time that almost 300 Black-necked Cranes winter at the western end of this valley. The valley is also an important wintering area for more than 1000 Bar-headed Geese.

Because management plans are not yet in place for this reserve, our international team will conduct a study at the Pengbo River valley in 1991 to devise a management plan for the new reserve. Our goal will be to encourage management practices that will enhance the centuries of harmony between Black-necked Cranes and Tibetans.

contribution to public education through the display of captive birds in natural settings. In addition, the Brehm Fund for International Bird Conservation supports research and preservation efforts for threatened birds around the world. During the past year, generous support from the Brehm Fund sponsored Dr. Mary Anne Bishop's studies of Black-necked Cranes in Tibet. Until recently, ICF and Chinese scientists had estimated that fewer than 1000 Black-necked Cranes survived. Now that number has been boosted to over 4,000.

ments now often require that harvested barley and spring wheat fields be plowed under each fall in order to control weeds and insects, making waste grain less accessible.

Throughout our travels in Tibet, we took every opportunity to meet with local county and regional officials, talking with them about the Black-necked Cranes. We used these meetings to emphasize the importance of leaving some waste barley and spring wheat in the fall for the wintering cranes. We hope this management practice will be adopted to help maintain the harmony between humans and cranes.

### More cranes discovered in Tibet

The second objective of our research was to conduct the Tibetan portion of the Annual Black-necked Crane Winter Count. Since 1989, I have attempted to organize winter counts of Black-necked Cranes in every region where they occur. Whereas the first count in 1989 found 705 cranes in Bhutan and China, the discovery in 1990 of new wintering areas in China, and increasing

## The Brehm Fund

For 15 years, Wolf and Uschi Brehm have been major helpers of cranes, through their roles as founders, owners and directors of the world's most beautiful bird park, Vogelpark Walsrode, located in Germany. Fourteen of the world's 15 species of cranes are maintained at Vogelpark. This year the quality of their crane breeding program was demonstrated by successful rearing of four Siberian Cranes and five Black-necked Cranes. The Vogelpark makes an enormous



Observations of cranes were made from a rooftop perch in the village of Dongbugang. Because wintering cranes seem to depend on traditional agricultural practices, a trend toward mechanization could threaten their survival. Photo by Mary Bishop.

practice brought by an accelerating pace of modernization in south central Tibet's fertile river valleys. Since the late 1970's, adapted varieties of winter wheat have been introduced as high-yielding crops. In some villages, winter wheat accounts for as much as 35 percent of the harvest and is the primary source of income in a growing cash economy. This cash economy has led to increased mechanization—among the ten villages and 483 families composing the district, there were 164 small tractors, nine big tractors, 145 planting machines, 32 harvesters, and one bulldozer.

At Tama, we found a relatively small wintering population of Black-necked Cranes. Although our study area was 3.5 square miles, we located only 105 cranes, compared to the 140-225 cranes we had found earlier in one square mile at Dongbugang. We believe the smaller numbers of cranes at Tama are the result of decreased availability of waste grain for food in fields of winter wheat.

We observed that in the traditional fields containing harvested barley and spring wheat, the cranes preferred to feed on waste grain easily gleaned on the surface. The recently introduced winter wheat, however, is not a source of waste grain. Planted in October, it is not available as a food resource to the cranes until it sprouts in late February.

Thus, as winter wheat replaces barley and spring wheat in Tibet, food available for wintering cranes will decrease. At the same time, crop damage to wheat sprouts by cranes will increase and amplify conflicts between cranes and man. In addition to the increased cultivation of winter wheat, local govern-

# International Reserve

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before entering the Soviet Union to attend the international crane meeting. Together with five other Americans, I was hosted by Inner Mongolia's Environmental Protection Bureau (EPB), which administers Dalainor and other reserves. The EPB has asked us to comment on management plans for Dalainor, and to provide training for the reserve staff. I was accompanied by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologists Stephen Bouffard, Richard Voss, and David Johnson, by Tim Clark of the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative, and by ICF member John Martin. Following our work at Dalainor, Steve Bouffard and I would travel into Russia with four Chinese from EPB, to attend a meeting for planning an international nature reserve.

In the days after the Au Bao, we drove far across the grasslands to visit Dalainor's three core areas. To the eye, the steppes have simplicity and beauty; nothing interrupts the sweep of grass or the millions of flowers which greet the rain. At intervals we saw solitary yurts, some placed in hollows of the land by a spring or summer wetland; other yurts stood high on the hills, silhouetted against puffy, white clouds. When the cattle, sheep, and pony herds exhausted the forage, the family would pack and move on.

In the middle of nowhere, we came upon a fence. The fence lines ran to the horizon in two directions, and on the far side, the grass was taller. Our hosts explained that herdsmen were fencing areas to keep livestock out during spring and summer; the grasses inside were cut for winter feeding. Three years ago, when I first visited Dalainor,



David Johnson (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) and Zhang Zixue (Grassland Eco-Environment Monitoring Laboratory of Inner Mongolia) share ideas on water management and discuss a proposed dam for Wulun Nor at Dalainor Nature Reserve. Photo by Jim Harris.

the fencing had just begun near the villages. Now, 100,000 acres had been fenced. Because fencing is done only to provide winter forage, it will not end the open ranges of Inner Mongolia. But we were witnessing an historic change. I felt the work of the reserve had started just in time.

Our team discussed with our Chinese hosts the opportunities to integrate range management with wildlife management. The fenced areas, ungrazed during the nesting season, could offer excellent nest cover, particularly near the larger wetlands and lakes. The reserve staff have already undertaken planning for new fences, working with the local government and the herdsmen.

Wulun Nor was the first of the core areas

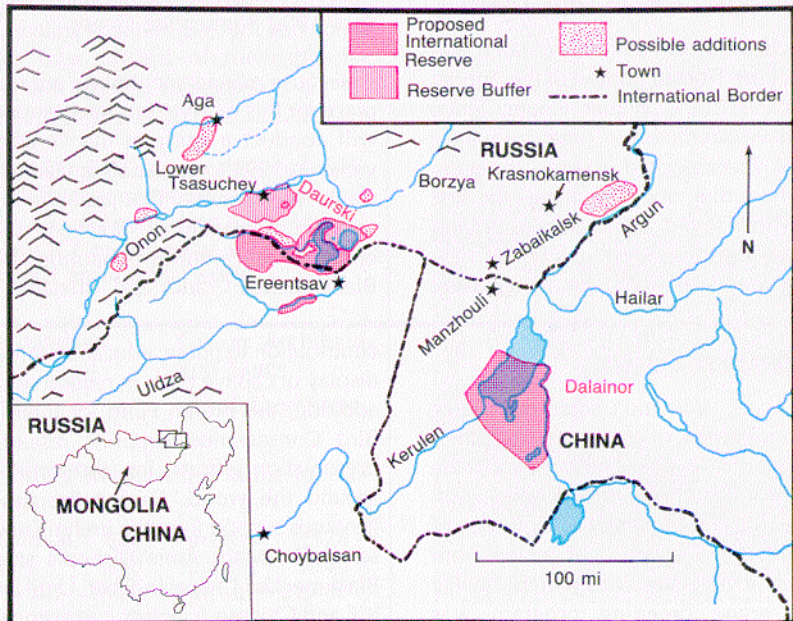
we toured. It has reed beds of great value to summering cranes, but the gradual subsiding of water threatens the wetlands. The winter before my previous visit, someone had driven over the frozen wetland and stolen the simple pile of stones that served as a dam to divert waters from the river into Wulun Nor. The nature reserve staff want to restore a more favorable water flow. To avoid upsetting ecological balances, we suggested a careful monitoring program before and after any alterations.

A second core area protects the delta of the Kerulen River as it empties into Dalainor. Here we stood among piles of harvested reeds, looking out over 50,000 acres of shallow reed beds where Red-crowned Cranes and first-year Siberian Cranes have summered. The reserve still lacks a boat and thus cannot survey the best crane habitat every year, search for nests, or enforce the ban on fishing during the nesting season.

We visited the third core area as we left the reserve en route to the border crossing at Manzhouli. There, a peninsula reaches into Dalainor, where Genghis Khan brought his army before battle over 700 years ago. As we approached, the shore looked empty, but a hollow of land hid a bus, trucks, and several dozen picnickers. The reserve will develop tourism. Again, I felt the change to this quiet land.

## We cross the border

The Chinese city of Manzhouli and the Russian city of Zabaikalsk lie only 12 miles apart, but the border crossing proved to be the worst ordeal of all my Asian travels. Persons from third countries (i.e., Americans) can only go by train. Only two trains cross each week.



ICF has joined with Chinese, Mongolian, and Russian conservationists in proposing an international grassland reserve for the border region.

The week of July 1, both trains were full, bad news for our party and 200 Russians waiting to return to Zabaikalsk. Fortunately for us, the Russians became angry with the delay and sat down on the tracks, not allowing the international train to leave the station. Finally, the Chinese agreed to add a train.

Even so, it took 15 hours to make the 12-mile run to Russia. Steve and I crammed into a passenger car with 200 Chinese, Mongolians, and a few Russians. We waited for hours at the train platform, and then for more hours with the nose of the train resting on the border itself. Steve and I watched two lines of barbed wire running to the horizon with nothing between.

These crowded trains and guarded borders are two of the barriers to conservation we personally experienced. Steve and I were not alone in finding the crossing difficult. We carried messages from the four Chinese who were to accompany us—they could not telephone across the border. They had been unable to get their passports, and needed someone to meet them on the Russian side the third day after us.

On July 2, Steve and I traveled by train from Zabaikalsk to Chita. Within just a few hours, we left the grasslands. Chita lies amidst low mountains and taiga. That evening, after reaching our hotel in Chita, we walked through dark corridors, two kitchens, and finally into a dining room with a long table seating the participants to our meeting: silent Mongolians, Russians standing with vodka, and George. We had really arrived!

#### An international meeting in tents

The international meeting—Russians, Mongolians, Chinese, and ICF—had been organized by Valentin Ilyashenko and his colleagues at the Central Scientific Laboratory for the Russian Republic. Although Chita, an important military center, had been closed to foreigners until the previous year, we now held our initial meetings in the regional headquarters for the Communist Party. Aside from discussions on cranes, the main goal of the Russian organizers was to develop proposals for an international nature reserve involving the three countries of the border region.

Another important goal was simply to meet one another. We hoped that cooperation for the cranes could continue in many ways, both informal and formal. Partly for this purpose, we left Chita on the second day, driving to Dauriski Nature Reserve on the Mongolian border. Dauriski, protecting 511,000 acres of lake and grassland, would form part of the international reserve. Dalainor would be the Chinese part, and the Mongolians would add 255,000 acres directly contiguous to Dauriski.

The Russians had prepared a delightful campsite for us where the grassland met a relict pine forest, left over from moister climates of the past. We lived in a row of tents. It was easy to fall asleep, to the call of nightjars and the voices from other tents in languages I did not know.

By day, we met at a long picnic table. Despite tedious translations from English to Russian to Mongolian to Chinese, the discussions went extremely well. It became clear that all of us had the same wishes, and the same ideas for the international nature reserve. By the end of the week, we had two versions for a draft agreement, in Russian and English. Delegates would take copies back to their governments for discussion and negotiation. In addition, the group asked ICF to facilitate communication among the countries and to send the proposals to all three governments. Sometimes outside requests can speed government action.

We explored the magnificent Dauriski Reserve. It lacks some of the wildness and expanse I felt from the Au Bao hill in Inner Mongolia; but, as George remarked, it has more cranes. We lunched and watched cranes from a hillside farmhouse overlooking the Uldza River. George and I understood now why the great reed marshes at Zhalong and elsewhere in east China have many Red-crowned Cranes but few White-naped. The Uldza meanders through shallow wetlands, where reed beds are limited but sedges and grasses abundant. White-naped were common. At last, we were seeing their preferred habitat.

As the days passed, we gained a sense that each of the three countries could contribute uniquely to their joint conservation effort. For example, we visited one of only two active

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At a charming campsite where grasslands gave way to pines, we met to discuss plans for an international reserve for cranes. Photo by Stephen Bouffard.

Buddhist temples surviving in Russia. Just a few miles south, however, in Mongolia, the Buddhist tradition has never been interrupted and hundreds of temples survive and thrive. Buddhist tradition protects wildlife. The Mongolians told us of great herds of gazelle and the commonness of wolves in their country. The Demoiselle Cranes are tame.

The new Mongolian reserve, to be part of the international reserve, has an odd shape because they have planned it with local officials on the Russian model. Unlike China, no human activities will be allowed. Therefore, the long, narrow shape has been designed to avoid all current development.

The Russians approach conservation better equipped than their neighbors. They routinely used helicopters for catching and banding young cranes and molting subadults that cannot fly. All of us had the chance to fly over Dauriski, watching White-naped and Demoiselles and waterfowl below, the water courses and connections all suddenly made clear and laid out before our eyes. Water is the life of this dry land.

Like the cranes, the waters do not heed national boundaries. The rivers of Dauriski enter from Mongolia. Likewise, Dalainor depends on Mongolian water. Our meeting held the hope that the waters and wildlife of this border region can be preserved as one, irreplaceable resource.

We expect varied results of our work at the long picnic table. The Russians have proposed a cooperative survey at Dalainor. The Mongolians wish to explore the Kerulen River with ICF and the Chinese. All of us left Dauriski feeling gratitude that luck and politics and our own dreams of friendship had allowed this meeting to happen.

The day I rested on the Au Bao hill, and again on grassy slopes at Dauriski, I listened to larks in aerial song. I remembered my American boyhood, when I had felt the Mongolian plains to be as remote as the moon. But now, the land had a strange, familiar pull on my heart. Was it the cowboys riding below on Mongolian ponies, so like our American west? These lands are old with human history, and yet feel much younger than our irrigated, power-lined, black-topped prairies. Conservation has come in time, perhaps, to save the limitless horizon of the lark and the White-naped Crane.

[Bill Kurtis and a crew from Kurtis Productions of Chicago accompanied us to Dauriski. A half-hour program entitled "Journey to Save a Crane" will air January 5 on PBS as part of The *New Explorers* series.]

## Work Trip to China

ICF's Jim Harris is leading an expedition to Cao Hai Nature Reserve in southwest China. Volunteers are needed to assist with studies of habitat use by Black-necked Cranes and with public education programs supporting the reserve's conservation programs. Dates are January 6-27, 1992. Costs are tax deductible: \$2,350 plus air fare. Participants should be in good health, but no strenuous activities are planned. Contact Jim *immediately* for more information.

## Special Gift Envelope

By Bob Hallam

Each year, the fall issue of the *Bugle* contains a "special gift envelope." The special gift money from last year allowed the Education Department to purchase tripods for spotting scopes for field trips. Next year the department hopes to purchase a second wheelchair for handicapped visitors. A gift of \$325 will help send storyteller and juggler Bob Kann to a school in Milwaukee to make a presentation about cranes.

Last year's contributions to Aviculture supported construction of a bungalow for George and an imprinted Siberian Crane named "Tanya" (see August *Bugle*). This year's gifts will help purchase video monitors and tapes to monitor pairing behavior and egg breaking in Whooping Cranes and will also help build a special area for rearing Black-necked chicks.

ICF's Field Ecology Department used its funds for restoration of ICF's prairie and for work in Vietnam. Vietnam work included the establishment of the environmental education program at the Tram Chim Nature Reserve, a year's salary for three reserve staff, and purchase of binoculars, scales, and books for reserve staff. Next year the department will use special gifts towards the creation of a Vietnamese language video about the reserve, to be used for environmental education throughout the country.

This year, we hope to have your help again for our new projects.

**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



ICF's Board of Trustees met in the Ron Sauey Memorial Library for Bird Conservation on September 21. The beautiful interior not only provides a quiet place for visiting scholars, but also much needed space for meetings like this.



# Anne Gromme

by George Archibald, Director

On August 4, 1991, holding the hands of her twin granddaughters and with an "I love you" on her lips, Anne Nielsen Gromme (88) passed away. Anne and her husband Owen had been ever-loyal friends to ICF since our humble beginning, almost 20 years ago. In 1989 Owen (now 95) was stricken with a stroke and remains at a medical center. Anne is survived by their two children, Roy and Anne, and five grandchildren. The Grommes still live in the hearts of their friends and through the art they created.

Anne was born on a farm near Briggsville, Wisconsin. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, in 1924, Anne was employed at the Milwaukee Public Museum, where she met Owen. They were married in 1927 under oaks near Briggsville, and it was to Briggsville that they retired in 1965.

The Gromme home was always a sanctuary for Ron Sauey and me. Anne's kitchen provided a habitat that nurtured body and soul. But Anne was more than a wonderful homemaker; she also handled details of their family business, and the many responsibilities stemming from the fame of her husband. She also provided helpful comments in the development of each of Owen's paintings. The notoriety of the Grommes and their commitment to ICF were both vital ingredients in ICF's success. Numbered and signed prints of two of Owen's crane paintings were given to those who contributed to the cause.

Both Anne and Owen will be honored and remembered by the Owen and Anne Gromme Crane Endowment. Although the Grommes appreciated ICF's overseas programs, their primary interest was in our Wisconsin headquarters. Consequently, income from the Gromme Endowment will help support ICF operations. We are hopeful that through the generosity of those who believe in ICF's mission, the Gromme Endowment will continue to grow. The Endowment, the "Gromme Wetland" in ICF's 60-acre restored prairie, and the magnificent oil painting entitled "Salute to the Dawn" now hanging in the new library, are all reminders of the dear lady we cherished.

## ICF's Bird-a-thon

ICF's third annual Bird-a-thon raised over \$14,000 for the Ron Sauey Conservation Fund and for ICF operations in Baraboo. We wish to thank all for their dedication and support.



ICF raised two Red-crowned Cranes this year. Our birds were clipped soon as they could fly, but 16 Red-crowneds hatched at Seney NWR are flying free, as part of an experimental reintroduction program. ICF sent eggs to Richard Urbanek, who is developing a release technique that may be used for the Whooping Crane. We hope Urbanek's chicks will join with Sandhill Cranes on their migration.

Some in Wisconsin had to have extra dedication. After five days of sunny, 80°F weather with heavy migration, a few counters were forced to suffer through cold and rain the following weekend. It's a pity our schedules aren't as flexible as the birds'.

Elaine Burstatte took the top honors followed by Mr. Ronald Buege, second, and Michael Putnam, third. All three received a signed and framed limited edition print by Rockne Knuth entitled "Winter Brook—Cardinals."

The other top-scoring teams were Kate Olsen and Kris Smith (4th), Jane Zuber (5th), Carson and Lisa Mettel (6th), Janet Flynn (7th), Cathryn Steuer (8th), William Robichaud and Susie Gabriel (9th), and Bill Cowart (10th). Each team received a pair of compact binoculars by Pentax.

Once again we wish to thank ICF Trustee Mark Lefebvre and Stanton & Lee of Madison for donating all the prizes.

## Contributions

Received July through August 1991

**Grants and Awards:** George Archibald; Genevieve Bancroft; Mrs. John S. Best; Charles P. Brumder; David H. Brumder; Melissa Brumder; Robert B. Brumder; Robert C. Brumder; Mrs. Jackson Burke; Tom & Renetta Cade; Evelyn T. Chace; Chicago Zoological Society; Mrs. Joseph B. Conolly, Jr.; Consolidated Papers Foundation; Tom & Barbie Donnelley; Mrs. Burt B. Fisher; Mrs. Thomas Fitzgerald; Tom Foley; Chappie, Sophie & Barbara Fox; Nancy Lee Day Gillespie; Mary Griggs Burke Foundation; Mrs. H. B. Griswold; Frederick F. Hansen; Evan & Marion Halfaer Foundation; William Holbrook; Institute of Museum Services; Johnson Wax; Johnson Wax-Japan; Mrs. Theodora Kubly; Mark Lefebvre-Stanton & Lee; National Wildlife Federation; Edward John Noble Foundation; Fred Ott; Dr. & Mrs. R. Payson; Puelicher Foundation; Thekla

Sanford; Robert Simason; Mrs. John Stedman; Mrs. Kenneth Tisdell; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Wildcat Foundation; World Wildlife Fund.

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As Ron Sauey said when our first Black-necked Cranes arrived at ICF, "It's the first time since Noah that all 15 species of crane have been assembled together in one spot." Outstanding wildlife artist David Rankin, as a tribute to cranes and the opening of the Ron Sauey Library, created this masterpiece. A new poster entitled "Biodiversity," featuring the Rankin painting, has been sponsored by the family of Miss Thekla P. Brumder. Posters are available from Terry Brooks at ICF; please send a check payable to ICF for \$8.20, which includes postage and handling (Wis. residents add \$.25 tax per poster).

## Winter Counts of Endangered Cranes

The flock of Whooping Cranes that winters in Texas did not increase over last year's count, and during the months following the count, 12 birds died or disappeared, including one shot by a hunter. This loss was the largest on record during the winter months. The experimental flock that winters in New Mexico (not listed below) again contained 13 birds, but no new eggs will be introduced to augment the flock.

Winter counts must be regarded as approximate minimums for the regions given. If we receive two different counts for the same location, we report the higher count.

We wish to thank: **Bhutan**—R. R. Chacko, Royal Government of Bhutan Forestry Dept., Royal Society for the Protection of Nature,

Sherubtshe College Nature & Trekking Club; **China**—Mary Anne Bishop, Cangjue Zhuoma, Caohai N.R. staff, Dongting N.R. Staff, Gu Binyuan, Jim Harkness, Jim Harris, Hu Hongxing, Li Gui, Li Zhumei, Lu Jianjian, C. Perennou, Poyang Lake N.R. staff, Shengjin N.R. staff, Song Yangling, Wang Qishan, Wang Youhui, Wu Zhikang, Yangcheng N.R. staff; **India**—V. S. Vijayan; **Iran**—Ellen Vuosalo-Tavakoli; **Japan**—Nobuki Kawamura, Kiyooki Ozaki, Hiroyuki Masatomi, Sueharo Matano; **South Korea**—Frances Kaliher; **US**—James Lewis; **Vietnam**—Ngo Quoc Thang.

	<u>88-89</u>	<u>89-90</u>
<b>1. Whooping Crane</b>		
USA: Texas	146	146
<b>2. Red-crowned Crane</b>		
China	681	546
Japan	446	453
South Korea	?	121
	<b>1127</b>	<b>1120</b>

<b>3. Siberian Crane</b>		
China	1953	1531
India	17	10
Iran	8-10	3-5
	<b>1980</b>	<b>1545</b>
<b>4. Eastern Sarus Crane</b>		
Vietnam	<b>800</b>	<b>814</b>
<b>5. Black-necked Crane</b>		
Bhutan	299	333
China	1255	3692
India	6	?
	<b>1560</b>	<b>4025</b>
<b>6. White-naped Crane</b>		
China	2716	1962
Japan	1439	2390
South Korea	?	94
	<b>4155</b>	<b>4446</b>
<b>7. Hooded Crane</b>		
China	440	756
Japan	7172	9506
South Korea	?	180
	<b>7612</b>	<b>10442</b>

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