

THE ICF BUGLE

Volume 18, Number 3

August, 1992

World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes

Amur River Workshop

by George Archibald, Director

Imagine a river the size of the Mississippi, running west to east and bordered by wide plains. In small villages and towns, Russians populate the northern shore, while just across the river, the people are Chinese. This great river is the Amur, and much of its 2,738 km length defines the border between China and Russia.

On enormous tracts of shallow wetlands and grasslands that survive amidst ever-expanding agricultural fields, magnificent Red-crowned Cranes, White-naped Cranes, and Oriental White Storks still nest and rear their fast-growing youngsters in a temperate, continental climate similar to that of southern Canada. And although the cranes and storks fly freely between Russia and China, it requires special visas for humans to visit opposite shores.

The habitats of the cranes and storks in the expansive basin of the Amur River are threatened by flooding from the construction of proposed dams, and by increasing development of natural areas for agriculture. To learn more about these problems and to help engage the Russians and Chinese in combined conservation initiatives, two private organizations (ICF and the Socio-Economic Union) hosted the International Workshop on Cranes and Storks of the Amur Basin from July 3-12. Appropriately, the meeting convened on a passenger liner which traveled 620 mi up the river from Khabarovsk to Tanbovski District during the meetings.

About 30 Russians, 20 Chinese, 11 Japanese, 1 Korean, and 14 westerners attended. Formal meetings were held in a

continued on page 4



Wildlife artist David Rankin designed this new poster for the Amur River workshop, with support from The Wild Bird Society of Japan and the JAL Foundation. Posters are available from Terry Brooks at ICF; please send a check payable to ICF for \$8.75, which includes postage and handling (Wis. residents add \$.28 tax per poster).

Walking with a Crane Chick

by Rebecca Dellinger,
Aviculture Associate

I'm hurrying again as I return from my rounds at ICF's Crane City. Now it's time to get ready for the daily chick walk, a very special event. But when in a rush it is easy to forget something you need. Yesterday I forgot my head—my crane puppet head that is! Let me explain.

For the "chick walk," I dress in what is called an isolation-rearing costume, a flowing gown that covers me from head to ankle, transforming me into a "crane." My human head is disguised as a hump and I view the world through a mesh visor that hides my face. My "bird head," which I wear on my arm and hand, is a puppet with a moveable bill. I wear the costume to prevent the chick from seeing and imprinting on my human features. Because some of our chicks are destined for release back into the wild, imprinting would be dangerous for them, since cranes are hunted in many parts of the world. We want these cranes to be wild, so they will avoid people once they are released.

A tape recorder, hidden beneath my costume, continuously plays the brood call of a Sandhill Crane. Promesa, the star of the chick walk, hears me coming and runs eagerly with wings-a-flutter to the end of her pen. We slip out the side gate and around the chick house, making our way to the edge of the prairie. A tour group standing a short distance away will observe us foraging for insects.

I listen to Promesa's soft cricket-like "chee," a call she gives every few seconds. It's her way of letting me know where she is and how she feels. Her call tells me she is content, and she follows me willingly as we work our way through the grass.

Like all ICF's chicks, Promesa has been growing rapidly. Hatched on May 20th of this year, she already stands taller than my knees. Her long, spindly legs carry her swiftly along; we soon reach the area where we will begin her lesson. Promesa immediately begins making quick jabs with her bill into the tall prairie grass, finding an assortment of insects and other invertebrates to eat. In rapid succession she snaps up a beetle, two moths, and a small leafhopper. Using my crane head, I try to catch something for her, but she is far more agile. I find it easier to show her how to dig with her bill in the soft soil. When I

do manage to secure a grasshopper for her, she squeals in anticipation. I really enjoy our time together.

Promesa is beautiful in her covering of soft down, colored with buff, rust and cinnamon. Tiny bits of fluff covering her ear openings protrude, giving a comical appearance when viewed from above. Juvenile plumage is now starting to replace her infant down, but wisps of down still adhere to the tips of her new feathers. The protective feather sheaths are beginning to flake off, making her look like she has a bad case of dandruff.

Suddenly, Promesa falls silent and disappears from view. Looking through the costume's mesh visor makes the task of finding her difficult, but I see what has startled her. A group of children has left the tour and is running into the prairie, following a trail which will lead them away from us and into fields of wildflowers. I find Promesa hiding in the tall grasses along the edge of our foraging area. She is now standing very erect, her dark brown eyes staring intently at the retreating children. She has followed her instincts well, reacting as a wild Sandhill chick would to danger. When the threat is gone, she begins to call again and returns to my side.

All too soon, our foraging trip is over. I hear tour guide Patricia Kelley finishing her discussion about raising crane chicks with her tour group. I steal a quick glance in their direction. People are smiling and nodding as they ask their last questions. Now it's time to lead

her back to her pen in the chick house. We return slowly through the grass, then quicken our pace as we skirt around the staff parking lot. As we pass the high fence behind the chick house that screens out all views of humans, I hear from inside the taped called of a Whooping Crane. Friday Maozeka, an intern from Zimbabwe, is using the tape while he exercises Whooping Crane chicks in one of the three exercise yards we use for chicks raised in isolation.

As I open the heavy wooden gate to enter another isolation yard, an adult Siberian Crane named Moda begins to display and give the unison call, serving notice that he is the dominant bird here. Moda serves as this year's "role model" for the Siberian chicks in isolation. His pen adjoins this exercise yard, so the chicks can see him and imprint on his features. When I open pens holding Siberian chicks, Aasha and Paran run out to greet Promesa. They will all spend the afternoon together. Tsuyoshi Watanabe, a trainee from Japan, has arrived dressed in a Siberian Crane costume. As I exit, I hear Promesa's soft "chee" call. She is content.

Rebecca M. Dellinger is the Aviculture Associate intern at ICF. Her responsibilities include working with the adult birds and assisting in the care and management of chicks. She is a former school teacher and wildlife artist, and is no stranger to working with birds after working at the Dallas Zoo for four years. Promesa and "parent" can be seen at the International Crane Foundation on their walk at 11:45 a.m. every day.



On the "chick walk," visitors to ICF watch crane-costumed Rebecca Dellinger lead an "isolation reared" Sandhill Crane chick on a food-finding and exercise session. This popular event takes place every day at 11:45 a.m., and provides a chance for guides to explain our chick release and habitat restoration programs. Photo by D. Thompson.

The Case of the Broken Egg

by George Archibald, Director

Fred and Wanda are perhaps the most handsome Whooping Cranes at the International Crane Foundation (ICF). Fully five feet tall, Fred is a magnificent white bird with black wingtips. Petite Wanda complements Fred. While many of the other adult Whooping Cranes have behavioral or anatomical problems that prevent mating, Fred and Wanda copulate perfectly. But despite their good looks and amorous skills, Fred and Wanda have a problem. They smash their eggs.

The couple's problems began last year. Having observed Fred and Wanda mating for several weeks, we anxiously awaited the arrival of their first egg. Our excitement changed to dismay when eggshell fragments appeared in their water bucket, indicating they had laid an egg but broken it. We thought this mishap might have occurred because Fred had been disturbed by a neighboring pair of loud Sandhill Cranes, so additional black tennis netting was applied to the Whooper's enclosure to provide more privacy.

Every second day, we felt Wanda's abdomen to check if an egg was on the way. If our finger felt a solid round object, a round-the-clock watch would be started so we could remove the egg the moment it was laid. Two eggs were retrieved, but to our disappointment, they were extremely small and yolless. In addition, the pair immediately attempted to break the dummy eggs we gave them. Fred and Wanda's difficulties were not unexpected, since 1991 was Wanda's first breeding season. Often, inexperienced female birds have complications with their first breeding attempts.

So in 1992 we moved the noisy Sandhills and added more tennis netting to Fred and Wanda's pen. In addition, we installed a video camera, allowing us to observe the Whoopers without the disturbance that direct observations would cause. The monitor was located in an old house trailer donated by aviculturist Ann Burke's family. Although the trailer was rustic, it was far more comfortable than squatting in a blind, as we used to do.

This spring, I could hear Fred and Wanda's loud cries every time they mated. In addition, I could observe their behavior on the television monitor.

Our aviculturists felt an egg in Wanda on April 17, 26 days ahead of her 1991 laying schedule. Fred and Wanda built a nest in full view of the video camera, and throughout the next two days I kept a careful eye on the pair.



In rigid throat posture sometimes called "stick walking," Fred passes between the photographer and Wanda. He is protecting his mate as she struggles to deposit an egg on her nest. Wanda has difficulty sitting down, so laying an egg seems to bring great discomfort.

Then something unusual caught my attention. Wanda had great difficulty sitting down on the nest. For many minutes she would stand on the nest, slowly turn in circles, and constantly rearrange the nesting material. But every time she tried to sit down on the nest, she stopped midway.

During the morning of April 18, Wanda spent most of her time standing on the nest with head lowered. Her behavior was intense—it was obvious that egg-laying was near. A few times she managed to crouch on the nest, but crouching seemed to cause discomfort, and she had to use her wings to push herself up. After standing, she would again repeat her circling on the nest. Finally she crouched on her ankles and egg-laying contractions began.

With head lowered to her shoulders, Wanda began to pant. Her tail moved slowly from side to side with the contractions. Then, with wings extended and an exaggerated twist of her body, an egg appeared on the nest.

While ICF interns Jeff Gerencser and Bob Anderson watched on the monitor, I stood outside Fred and Wanda's pen, waiting for the egg. I had to grab it before they could break it. As soon as it dropped, Wanda stood. Taking my cue, I ran into the pen, extending a broom to protect me from the aggressive parents, and replaced the egg with a dummy egg filled with plaster.

The new egg was of normal size. I quickly placed it under an incubating pair of White-naped Cranes, birds with a good record of reliable parenthood. Meanwhile, Fred and Wanda examined the dummy egg, turning it

this way and that for one and a half hours. Many times, Wanda tried to sit on the nest and eventually, in apparent frustration, she stabbed at the egg. Fred joined her in demolishing the dummy egg. Fortunately, the real egg was safely being incubated by the White-naped cranes!

Over the next six weeks, careful observations via the video camera helped us collect seven eggs from Fred and Wanda. At least four of the eggs are fertile and the first chick hatched May 19. Two of their chicks are being reared in isolation from humans and are destined for release into the wilds of Florida this autumn. Meanwhile, our veterinarians, Julie Langenberg and Tom Curro, are trying to determine why Wanda has so much trouble crouching on the nest.

Whooping Crane Video Wins Award

This June in Kingston, Ontario, producer Dave Erickson won the "best non-commercial film" award in the Animal Behavior Film Festival for "A Place for Whooping Cranes." This 21-minute video outlines the history of efforts to save the species, ICF's role in captive breeding, and future plans for Whooper management. The video won because it "was so well done, and conveyed so well the application of animal behavior studies. . . ." To order a VHS copy, send ICF \$19.95 for a home entertainment copy, or \$49.95 for a public/educational copy. Add \$3.00 for shipping and handling, and also 5.5% sales tax for Wisconsin residents.

Amur River Workshop

continued from page 1

window-lined upper deck lecture room. Communication was facilitated through the outstanding translation skills of Helen Smirenski, Irene Ludogovskaya, and Simba Chan.

A threatened basin

Stretching east from the grasslands of Mongolia to the Sea of Japan, the mighty Amur is the only major Russian river that has not been dammed. Its basin is the meeting place of grasslands to the west, boreal forest to the north, and Oriental broad-leaved forests to the south. The mixing of these communities in the Amur Basin increased biological diversity, including six species of cranes and two species of storks, (five of the eight are endangered species):

Former tensions between China and the USSR discouraged development and minimized man's impact on the river and surrounding environment. But now the two countries want to work together as neighbors in developing the resources of the Amur. Under consideration is a series of enormous hydropower dams. One of these dams would be located on the Amur just downstream from Khinganski Nature Reserve and its wetlands thick with cranes and storks.

Not only do dams create reservoirs that destroy wide expanses of lowlands, but they also have the potential to cause significant changes in local weather. In southeastern Siberia, ice on the reservoirs of existing dams does not melt until six weeks after other



China and Russia meet at the northeast corner of Lake Khanka, where the Sungacha River drains north toward the Amur. Although wetlands on both sides of the border are protected, the two nations hope to establish an international nature reserve, and to work together in studying this remarkable ecosystem with its rare cranes and storks. Photo by Jim Harris.

portions of the river open. As a result, air temperatures near the reservoirs remain abnormally cool until late spring. The effects of flooding are further exacerbated when ice dams and temporary reservoirs are created as ice flows from upstream collect at the upper end of frozen reservoirs.

In addition to outright destruction of habitat for marshland birds, the proposed dams along the Amur will destroy major spawning areas for sturgeon and salmon.

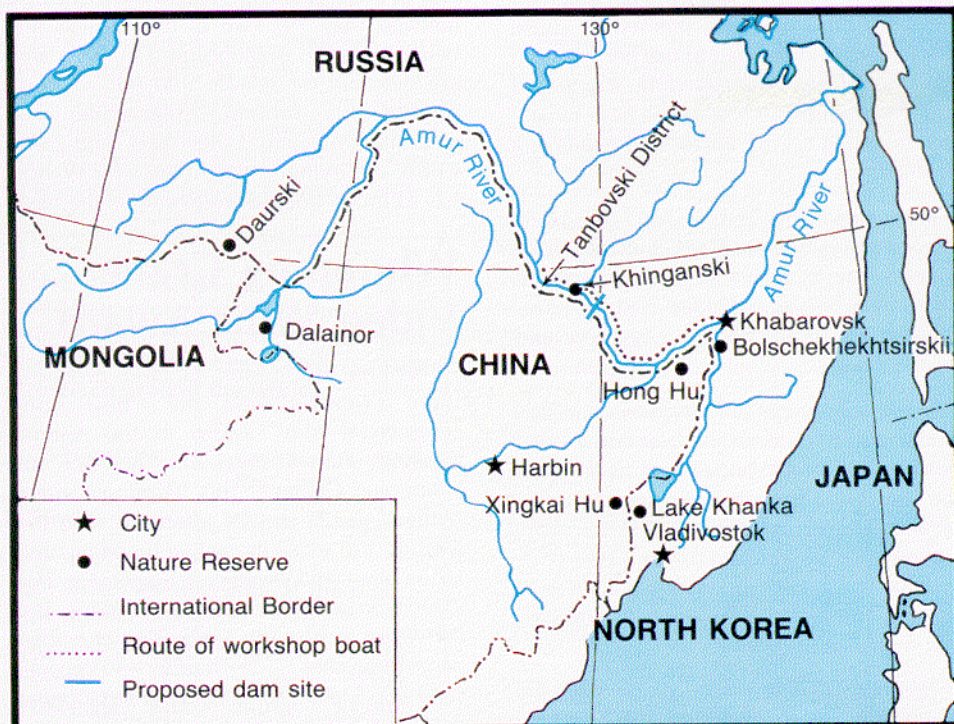
Although Russian engineers are against the dams and their Chinese counterparts agree there will be serious environmental impacts, the Chinese claim that hydropower has fewer harmful impacts than the use of fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

Endangered reserves

During our trip up the Amur on the liner, we stopped three times for field trips. One excursion was to visit Khinganski Nature Reserve, where we boarded a helicopter to view the vast expanses of prairie, wetland and forest that are home to cranes, storks, moose and wolves. We were thrilled to look down on a mosaic—*islands of deciduous forest amidst wide expanses of open, sedge-covered wetland.*

The bulky stick nests of the storks were easy to spot in large oak trees. And in the neighboring wetlands we spotted pairs of widely-scattered Red-crowned and White-naped cranes, some of which were incapable of flight because they were undergoing their summer moult of flight feathers.

Japanese ornithologist Dr. Hito Higuchi took advantage of their flightlessness when the helicopter swooped down on a pair of White-naped Cranes. As the helicopter hovered, Russian researcher Sergei Smirenski jumped out and captured one of the cranes. Within 15 minutes Dr. Higuchi had mounted a satellite radio on the crane's back. This autumn, the exact migration route of that crane may be determined between breeding areas in Russia and wintering grounds in Japan. The satellite information will allow conservationists to better protect these rare cranes at formerly unknown resting spots



The Amur River, forming the border between Russia and China, is the world's eight longest, and the largest undammed river. But now the Amur basin's great biodiversity is threatened by agriculture, deforestation and dams. To address these problems, ICF co-sponsored a workshop this July.

along their migration corridor through China and Korea.

Khinganski is one of 68 nature reserves in Russia that have been established as strictly protected natural areas. Each nature reserve has a staff that includes administrators, rangers and scientists. The reserves can only be used by scientists who for decades have meticulously monitored various aspects of the world of nature. Such banks of information acquired over much of this century provide valuable information on the effects of subtle environmental change.

Unfortunately, economic upheaval in Russia endangers the welfare of these reserves. Inadequate funding from Moscow has influenced some of the reserve staff to seek alternative employment. Directors of five nature reserves in the Amur Basin told us that funds were only available until the end of August. Such instabilities threaten the survival of the reserves and their unique monitoring programs.

And just across the river in China, the vast Three Rivers Plain is being developed as China's "great northern food basket." But China has also established several wetland nature reserves in the Amur River Basin. One of these, Xingkai Nature Reserve, includes wetlands along the northern shore of Lake Khanka, a large lake that lies on the border of China and Russia in the southern portion of the Amur watershed. Recently, the Russians protected many of the wetlands along the lake's eastern and southern shores.

After the workshop, I joined a team of specialists who visited Lake Khanka. Pear-shaped Lake Khanka is approximately 50 mi long, extremely shallow (average depth 15 ft), and bordered on the east and north by shallow wetlands where cranes and storks breed. Forested mountains form the eastern rim of the Khanka Basin. Between the mountains and the wetlands lies rich farmland—Russia's only region where rice can be grown.

With wetland nature reserves recently established in both Chinese and Russian portions of Lake Khanka, the two sides are now anxious to work together to study cranes and storks, to monitor migrations of other waterfowl, and to address serious problems of pollution from agriculture and industry. An agreement was signed whereby exchange visits will continue. In the spring of 1993, the Chinese will join the Russians for helicopter surveys of cranes and storks on the wetlands. Both sides hope their governments will soon approve the creation of an international nature reserve at Lake Khanka.

New reserve established

Following the Russian Revolution in 1917, private ownership was abolished and large

collective farms were established. Although this system failed to motivate agricultural workers and production stagnated, lack of agricultural development did have the benefit of preserving much wild land from the plow. Now, with reforms in the Russian economy, public land has been sold to individuals who have established many private farms. With more aggressive development by private farmers, many of these wild lands are now threatened. During the workshop, we discussed ways that private conservation organizations might also secure grants of public lands.

An historic event took place on July 10, 1992, in the administrative headquarters of the village of Tanbovka. The leaders of Tanbovski District made a unanimous vote of support for the creation of a private nature reserve. A document was signed whereby a new Russian non-governmental conservation organization, the Socio-Ecological Union (SEU), secured a 99 year lease on 25,000 acres of wilderness containing 12 pairs of cranes and two pairs of storks on the lowlands of the Amur River in southeastern Siberia.

Financial support for this lease was secured for SEU by the foremost private bird conservation organization in east Asia, the Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ). These funds, donated by a Japanese textile company, Pop International, saved prime crane and stork nesting habitat. In Japan, the same funds could have purchased only 2.5 acres of lowland. At the conclusion of our Workshop, the Russians and the Director of WBSJ, Noritaka Ichida, signed the contract. This event marked the first time since the October Revolution of 1917 that a private organiza-

tion in Russia had secured land for conservation.

Promising possibilities

At the close of the workshop, Chinese and Russian delegates signed a document whereby they agreed to continue their collaboration on conservation of the wetlands of the Amur Basin. During the next year, five teams of Russian ornithologists will visit nature reserves in China. Work continues toward developing a second international reserve in the west where Mongolia, China and Russia meet. The Japanese hope to build an education center at the reserve they helped establish in Tanbovski District. And the National Audubon Society and SEU have joined forces in promoting the conservation of sister rivers—the Platte in the U.S.A. and the Amur in Russia.

The Amur Workshop's success can be attributed primarily to the remarkable commitment and drive of Sergei Smirenski and his counterpart at ICF, Jim Harris. Sergei first met Chinese colleagues during study and planning visits at ICF in 1989 and 1990, and from those study visits, plans for the Amur workshop evolved. With many gifted individuals like Sergei building a new and brighter future in Russia, we have hope that current problems in Russia will be resolved and that more and more, the people of Asia can join together to appreciate their wild places—as we did this July on the Amur.

Funding for the workshop was provided by the Trust for Mutual Understanding, the Frank Weeden Foundation, and the National Audubon Society.



Following the workshop on the Amur, Chinese, Russians and Americans met at Lake Khanka. In the Russian town of Spassk on the evening before the departure of the Chinese, colleagues toast the proposed international nature reserve.

Big Year for Chicks!

This was a bumper year for Whooping Crane chicks in captivity. The total number of chicks by the end of July at both ICF and Patuxent was 29, about double the previous record year. This spring, ICF received 11 Whooping Crane eggs from Wood Buffalo National Park, while three Whooping Crane hens in Crane City laid 16 eggs. We now have 13 vigorous chicks, and Patuxent has 16.

Plans call for sending about six of these to Florida for a reintroduction attempt this winter. The Aviculture staff and volunteer chick parents have had their hands full, giving all the chicks the individual loving care they need. And now, staff are out in crane costume many mornings at 6:30 a.m., giving chicks bound for Florida their exercise and lessons in our restored wetland.

This year, Gee Whiz produced four "grand-chicks" for Tex. As you recall, Tex was the female Whooper that George Archibald courted for five years because she was imprinted on humans. Eventually, Dr. Archibald succeeded, and Gee Whiz was produced shortly before Tex died. Now Tex's genes live on in these four chicks, named Hope, l'Esperence, Eha, and Aiyashachi (all words for "hope" in different languages). Because the Whooping Cranes were reduced to as few as eight *breeding* birds back in 1941, and because Tex's parents (Crip and Rosie) came into captivity not long after the population passed through this "genetic bottleneck," we believe that Gee Whiz and his offspring could be carrying some rare genes not found in other Whoopers.

This was also a good year for Siberian Cranes. After sending six eggs to Russia with Mini Nagendran, we went on to raise eight chicks. Tanya laid for the first time after 14

years in captivity, while Hirakawa laid again after a lapse of several years in her prolific egg-laying career.

Work Trip To China

ICF is planning a work trip to southern China, to last for 20 days, beginning in late February or early March, 1993. Volunteers are needed to observe feeding behavior and habitat use by wintering cranes, and to visit schools and villages to present slide-shows and children's artwork from America. Special skills are not needed, only strong interest and a willingness to learn. This will be the only work trip offered in 1993.

Participants should be in good health, but there will be no strenuous activities. All costs are tax deductible, interested persons should contact Jim Harris at ICF.

Contributions



Lufthansa

ICF's Official Airline

Received April through June, 1992

Grants and Awards: Walter Alexander Foundation; George Archibald; Mrs. James P. Balding, Jr.; Helen Best; Helen Brach Foundation; John Brant; Eleanor Briggs; Myrtle Busse; John Canfield; Catherine Caufield; Henry Chandler; Cho Sam Rae; Clairson Industries Corp.; Catherine Cleary; Tim Crosby; John & Judy Day; Dorse Foundation; John Henry Dick; Tom & Barb Donnelley; Earth Watch Expeditions; Mr. & Mrs. Philip Effinger; Evjue Foundation; Karen Galley; Nicholas & Mary Graves; Henry &

Nina Griswold; Forrest Hartmann; Wendy Holland; Frieda & William Hunt Memorial Trust; Institute of Museum Services; Ken & Mary Lee Jacobs; Reinhardt Jahn; William Kieckhefer; Gary Kuehn; Katherine Kuh; Marshall & Ilsley Corp.; Dr. Hiroyuki Masatomi; Peter & Maria Matthiessen; The Oscar G. & Elsa S. Mayer Charitable Trust; Hope McCormick; Earl & Marla Minton; Mitchell Energy & Development Corp.; Philip Morris; Virginia Murray; National Wildlife Federation; Charles Nelson; Edward John Noble Foundation, Inc.; Fred Ott; Mr. & Mrs. William Piel; Mrs. Ellen Rasch; Linda Reivitz; Dr. Juhani Rinne; Norm Sauey, Jr.; Agee Shelton; J. R. Short Milling, Jeff Short, Jr.; Ruth Smith; Stanton & Lee; Elizabeth Stillman; Joanna Sturm; The Calgary Foundation; Trust for Mutual Understanding; U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service; The Journal Times; Harold Washburn; Wild Bird Society of Japan; Wis. Metro Audubon Society; Wisconsin Energy Corp. Foundation; Kano & Masako Yamamoto; Yomiuri Newspaper Japan.

Patrons: Mr. Kenneth Elk; Mr. Thomas Foley; Oscar Mayer; Hope McCormick; Mr. & Mrs. William Piel; Jane Wood.

Sponsors: Barbara Crass & Paul Holzman; K & D Findley; Gompers Elementary; Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Major; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mowbray; Mr. & Mrs. Laurance Rockefeller; Elizabeth Towell.

Associates: James Aasen; Dorothy Alexander; Sandra Allen; Ernest & Betty Lu Anderson; Miss Hope Anderson; Roger & Ann Avery; Susan Avery; Genevieve Bancroft; Bill & Helen Barnes; Byron & Jo Ann Bossenbroek;

Betty Bunge; James Burgess; Bob & Verene Crane; Marion Crownhart; Cunningham School; Dec International - Albrecht Foundation; Audrey Voss Dickerson; Mrs. Emily Earley; Lora Jane Eastham; Theodore Eliot, Jr.; Ostrom Enders; John & Catherine Erskine; Ken Finkel & Jane Delzer; Bernice Roth Flaningam Trust; Beverly Geske; Daniel & Georgia Gomez-Ibanez; James Goodwin; Mrs. Laurentine Greene; Helen Hands; Sibyl Heide; Charles Heine; Holiday Wholesale-Bud Gussel, Jr.; Alfred Hopkins; Humane Manufacturing; Dave & Pat Hurd; Patricia Ann Jaffray; Charles L. Jahn; Mr. & Mrs. Edward Jones; Jupiter Transportation; Haskins Kashima; Kinnick High School; Donald Kloehn; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Koskinen; Herman Kuhn; Arno & Hazel Kurth; Elizabeth Lister; Kathy Luck; Lesleigh Luttrell & Dave Schreiner; Marathon Box Corp.; Joyce Martin; Mrs. Richard Mason; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Matteson; Mrs. William Messinger; James Mooney; Bill & Emily Moore; Thelma Moss; Mr. Clarence Newbold; Iain & Margery Nicolson; Jo Anne Overleese; Gerald Palmer & Kathleen Jordan; Mr. & Mrs. Roger Pence; Sonogi Pitts; Nathaniel Reed; William Reed; Birgit Rennenhempff; Rosenow School; Mr. & Mrs. J. David Rowland; Burton Russman; Margaret Ryerson; Dr. James & Marilyn Sachtjen; Larry & Marilyn Sauey; Janet Scalpone; Michael Schellpfeffer; Owen Shteir; Silverbrook Middle School; Mowry Smith, III; Henry Springer; Mr. & Mrs. James Stewart; Virginia Thomas; Alice Thorngate; Raymond Trussell; Dr. & Mrs. John Twomey; Mrs. Jephtha Wade; Wildlife Materials; L. Kris Wilke; Richard Wolfe; Waldemar Wolfmeyer; Delma Woodburn.

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

Last Special Saturday

These workshops and special tours cost \$5.00 (\$8.00 for non-members), plus the normal admission charge to the site of \$5.00 for adults or \$4.50 for seniors (members free). Advance registration is required for the special workshops, and tours. Please call Rose Blada at 608/356-9462.

Prairie Restoration & Seed Preparation

Some practical information about the values and methods of restoring our native prairies, with an emphasis on propagation, seed cleaning, and collecting. WHEN: Saturday 9:15-11:45 a.m., September 26. INSTRUCTOR: Jeb Barzen.

Soils: The Earth Beneath Our Feet

An indoor presentation with music, poetry, and displays, followed by an outdoor walk to see landscapes and soils. WHEN: Saturday, 1:30-4 p.m., September 26. INSTRUCTOR: Francis Hole. Don't miss this superb class!

Inside Crane City

A rare opportunity to tour ICF's breeding center, meet some of our special birds, and learn about techniques. WHEN: Saturday, 9:15-10:45 a.m. & 1:30-3 p.m., September 26. INSTRUCTOR: ICF Staff.

Fall Field Trips

Southeastern Wisconsin Wetlands

Visit a variety of wetlands in the Kettle Moraine including wet prairie, marsh, fen, and bog. Study the relationship between vegetation, water levels, and water chemistry. See fen wildflowers during their peak time. WHEN: Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., August 22. INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Galen Smith. FEE: \$5. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Bring lunch, wetable shoes, and be prepared for insects. Call (608) 356-9462 to register.

Overnight at Sandhill Wildlife Area

Led by Dick Thiel, October 24-25, at Sandhill Wildlife Demonstration Area near Babcock, WI. Your donation of \$30 helps support education and research at the Sandhill Wildlife Area. Enjoy a tour of the refuge, an evening program in a warm cabin, a superb camping location, and a morning view of crane flocks from blinds. Supper provided. Bring tent, sleeping bag, and warm clothes. Meet 2:00 p.m. Saturday at refuge headquarters. Advance registration required: (608) 356-9462.

Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho

See several hundred Sandhill Cranes, and several Whooping Cranes; learn about the largest hardstem bulrush marsh in North America, about the refuge, and about the history of the cross-fostering experiment. WHEN: Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., September 12. INSTRUCTOR: Steve Bouffard, Refuge Biologist. Call (208) 237-6615 to register.

ANNOUNCING:

The 18th Annual Meeting of the International Crane Foundation Saturday, September 19, 1992

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

SPECIAL EVENTS at ICF, for members & guests:

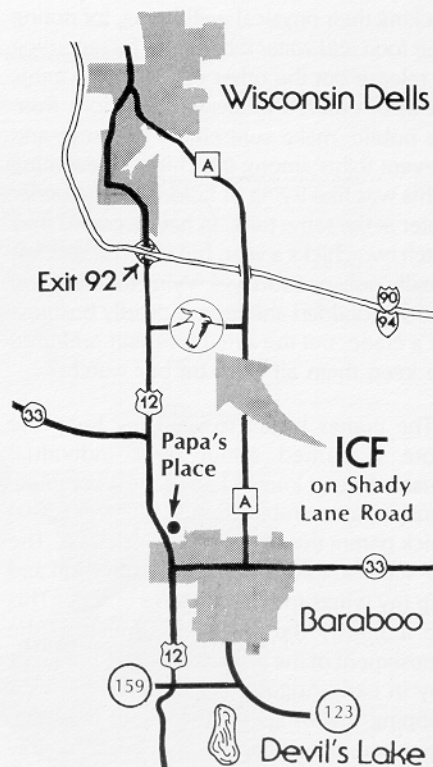
*2:00 & 3:30 p.m. **Explore ICF's restored prairie and wetland** with Jeb Barzen, Habitat Ecologist. Meet in the Cudahy Auditorium. Bring walking shoes.

*2:00 & 3:30 p.m. **Crane City**—take advantage of this unusual opportunity to visit our breeding facility. Meet in parking lot by hatchery.

*Every half hour starting at 2:00 p.m. in the Schroeder Auditorium, view **Bill Kurtis's new video** about ICF's work in Siberia entitled "Journey to Save a Crane."

*5:30 p.m. **HOSPITALITY HOUR** (cash bar) at Papa's Place.

*6:30 p.m. **ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM** starts with a salute to our outstanding volunteers. George Archibald then presents a wonderfully entertaining slide show about ICF's achievements during the past year, taking you with him to Cambodia and Russia.



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 \$16.00 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: _____

Volunteers Make Proud Parents

by Susan McDonald

It was a small white notecard taped in the window of the bird seed store: "Chick Parents Wanted." I was curious, so I applied. I had no idea what I was getting into. Although I had never been to the International Crane Foundation (ICF) before, I would have laughed if I had seen the "chick parents" running about with crane puppets, purring and 'whooping' to little fuzzi-ball chicks.

I got the job. I learned that chick parents are responsible for keeping a germ-free atmosphere for these little superstars, for tracking their physical well-being, for noting their food and water intake, and for recording its release out the other end. Chick parents are also required to answer questions from the public, make sure chicks exercise, and prevent fights among the chicks. Preventing fights was like trying to hold 30 corks under water at the same time. In nature cranes may hatch two chicks a year, but in some species, usually only one survives. Vying for mom and dad's undivided attention is deadly business for a crane, but the aviculture staff preferred we keep them all alive on our watch.

The cranes began to steal my heart the more I learned about their individual personalities. I knew I had made a complete transformation from nervous volunteer to real chick parent the day my first chick flew. The ICF staff had told me to run into the wind and flap my wings for the chicks to imitate. This we tediously did for weeks, much to the amusement of the visitors. But one hot gusty day in early August, as I ran into the wind flapping my wings for the 435th time that afternoon, one of the chicks, a beautiful gray Sandhill Crane named Dakota, lifted off behind me. He flapped his long powerful wings over my shoulders so close that he



Volunteer "chick parent" Susan McDonald feeds a Whooping Crane Chick. It would have been difficult to handle this year's bumper crop of chicks without our 20 chick parents. They helped monitor health, provide food and water, sew crane costumes, clean up, and answer questions from the public. They "made the difference!" Photo by David Thompson.

grazed my ear. Higher and higher he flew, free of gravity, free of the aggression of his chick-yard siblings, free of care. Like any good parent watching her young succeed, I was so proud.

The hours of raking the pens, scrubbing the bowls and refilling them with water—all were suddenly worthwhile. Just like the human parent who forgets sleepless nights and back-seat bickering while watching a child accept his high school diploma, I was transformed by pride as this one accepted his diploma in the sky.

But these babies weren't going on to college or even into the family business of migrating to the winter territory. They were destined to have their wings clipped and to stay living in captivity, albeit comfortably and with excellent medical benefits, in order to

breed future generations. Their children might be released into the wild if safe habitat can be found. *My chicks* are literally the hope of their generation. How many other parents can say that?

I'm not the only parent in the chick yard, of course. There's a different volunteer every morning and every afternoon. We are all ages, men and women. There's a financial secretary, a schoolteacher, a retired gentleman, a farm wife, a nurse, a doctor.

That summer of 1991, we were trusted with the care of almost four percent of the world's population of Whooping Cranes. They trusted us. We taught them to fly. I'll always remember sweet Chip, aggressive Baratux, silly Kane. May their children fly free over our heads soon.

8

International Crane Foundation

E-11376 Shady Lane Road
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913

(608) 356-9462

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

Address Correction Requested

