

# THE ICF BUGLE

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World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes

## ICF is Twenty

by George Archibald, Director

With sensitivity, precision, and a sense of humor, author and former ICF volunteer, Barbara Katz, tells the tale of ICF's first 20 years in her new book, *So Cranes May Dance*. It's a story about how the dream of two college kids became a reality in the sand country of central Wisconsin. One of those kids, Ron Sauey, passed away in 1987 just as ICF was maturing. The other kid, now 46, has enough memories to fill several volumes.

No matter how far from home or how different the culture, I feel a familiarity, a comfort and a thrill when I meet the wild cranes. My mind floats back to the sight and sound of more than a hundred Red-crowned Cranes circling overhead, black and white against the cold blue winter sky of Korea's DMZ. And as sun burned through the midmorning fog at China's Poyang Lake, from our vantage point on a hill, I cherished the spectacle of more than a thousand Siberian Cranes peacefully probing in the shallows while their soft musical calls floated over the vast mudflats. On another continent, I can still see that pair of streamlined Blue Cranes walking up a grassy and flowered hillside with two downy youngsters in tow. Helping these magnificent wild creatures has always been the essence of ICF's mission.

Despite their exquisite beauty and commanding presence, these special birds are endangered. Our species is the problem, and so we must provide the solutions. After all, cranes have done very well for millions of years without our help, and if left alone, could do very well today. But human numbers and needs continue to soar. Modern firearms, pesticides, and the destruction of wetlands and grasslands have all caused the

catastrophic decline of cranes in many areas. And although Ron and I both preferred watching birds to sitting in meetings, right from the start we both realized we would undoubtedly have to work more with people than with cranes.

### From need to action

When ICF was incorporated in 1973, Ron and I were as green as grasslands after the rain. We had only the vaguest notion of what a nonprofit organization was. Baraboo attorney and early ICF supporter, Forrest Hartmann, bridged that gap. But we were blessed with a solid education in ornithology, a genuine interest in people, wildlife and conservation, a thirst for adventure in far-away places, and a willingness to learn and to change. The kindness of Ron's parents,

Norman and Claire Sauey, who leased us their farm for a dollar a year, provided a physical base where our dreams were molded into reality.

Nearby neighbors from Briggsville, wildlife artist Owen Gromme and his motherly wife Anne, provided paintings, prints, contacts, and delicious meals that were vital in sustaining us during the early years. Although Ron and the Grommes have passed away, their names will always be remembered at ICF—the Gromme Marsh cradled in a kettle of restored prairie, the Ron Sauey Memorial Library for Bird Conservation, the Owen and Anne Gromme Crane Endowment (to support day-to-day operations) and the Ron Sauey Conservation Fund (to support the library and overseas projects).

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A wild Red-crowned Crane broods its young in a marsh on the Japanese island of Hokkaido. The essence of ICF's mission is to ensure there will always be cranes in the wild. Photo by Masahiro Wada.

# New Whooping Crane Exhibit Planned With Help from AMOCO

by David Thompson,  
Education Director

About a hundred years ago, a farmer strolled over the land of his new farm in western Minnesota. The unbroken prairie grass was waist-high, speckled with flowers. Topping a low rise, he looked ahead to a low, marshy depression, where the reflected blue sky blended with a patchwork of lush wetland vegetation.

Suddenly, he saw them—two starkly white and erect birds—shining like jewels amid the expanse of green and blue. Then their clear voices reached across the prairie, sounding a challenge to the farmer's ownership. As the farmer continued his approach, they took to the air, circled with a few more cries, then disappeared to the northwest. They never returned to the farm, where the sod was soon broken by the plow, where the marsh was drained.

Cranes are beautiful birds, and yet their beauty is much enhanced by the majestic places they inhabit. In an attempt partially to recreate this scene from the past, ICF is designing a new, naturalistic exhibit for Whooping Cranes. The plan is to create, west of the Johnson Exhibit Pod, a lush wet area surrounded by prairie, where Whoopers will once again strut their stuff, displaying as much natural behavior as possible. Fences and other structures will be hidden by contours, while restored oak savanna will provide a backdrop.

## Planning for the future

The new exhibit serves several purposes. First, ICF wants to increase the public's awareness of Whooping Cranes, North America's foremost symbol of success with endangered species management, along with ICF's important role in their recovery. Second, we are always looking for ways to boost our message about the importance of saving natural communities. While the wetland in the middle of the Whooper exhibit will not be a natural community, it will allow ICF to expand its messages about habitat and wetlands. Finally, the exhibit will increase ICF's capacity for visitors, by creating a place for people to explore and enjoy, and offering a second assembly point for group tours. At present, groups and drop-in visitors all start tours in the Cudahy Auditorium. With two assembly areas, roughly twice as many tours could start. Increasing capacity is important, given the 43 percent increase in visitation during 1990 and 1991. We expect continued growth.



ICF is one of only two places in the world where you can see captive Whooping Cranes on display. ICF is now planning a new exhibit for this white crane, where we'll attempt to recapture the vision of wild Whoopers on the virgin prairie. Your help is needed in the capital campaign that includes funding for the exhibit. Illustrated by Kestrel Design Group.

Although two Whoopers are presently on display in the Johnson Exhibit Pod at ICF, the new exhibit will allow a wider range of behavior to be observed, provide a larger and more natural setting worthy of the species' importance, eliminate the fence between viewer and bird, and allow more space for educational displays.

After a year of preliminary discussions, ICF selected Kestrel Design Group of Wheeling, Illinois, to plan the exhibit. They have produced a preliminary design, surveyed the site, and presented plans to ICF's Executive Committee. Gordon Dietzman, Ann Burke, and Rich Bielfus have played prominent roles on the ICF planning committee, representing the Education, Aviculture, and Field Ecology Departments.

Aviculture has to insure safety, ease of care, and that the birds will remain within easy view. Field Ecology is providing technical expertise on creating and planting the wet area, and restoring the prairie and savanna beyond. Education is planning how the area will be incorporated into the tour program, and what the messages will be.

Despite the projected growth in visitation at ICF, we want to preserve what has made us so special—the sense of quiet space and the personally guided tours. The new exhibit will provide extra space with a natural feel that visitors can explore on their own, and will also be included on the guided tour circuit.

When the exhibit is finished, a typical tour will begin at the Cudahy auditorium, where

visitors will receive a welcome and see the ICF slide show. They will then visit the Johnson Exhibit Pod, with their route extended to include stops at the Whooper Exhibit and the habitat overlook. At the overlook, they will receive a short message about wetlands and an enticement to visit the restored prairie and wetland visible below. Visits to the chick yard and the Schroeder video theater, now part of the regular tour, will become optional activities for visitors to do on their own, to keep tours within a reasonable length of time. Overall, the tour's emphasis on Whooping Cranes and habitat will be increased.

## You can make a difference

Captive Whoopers are now on display at only two other zoos in the world beside ICF, so this exhibit is a very significant addition to our program. The Amoco Foundation has long had an interest in conservation—for example, they own and preserve the former nesting ground of the Whooping Crane in Louisiana, a place called White Lake Marshes. We thank Amoco for their generous commitment, and invite our members and supporters to join us in completing the balance of funds needed.

Only \$41,000 is needed to finish the capital campaign, and trigger the matching \$150,000 Kresge Challenge Grant. Every dollar brings us closer to our goal. By contributing to ICF's Finishing the Campus capital campaign, you can make our new Whooper Exhibit a reality, and help bring the optimistic message about Whooping Cranes, and their recovery from the brink of extinction, to over 30,000 visitors a year.

# Playing Father to Whooping Cranes

by Tsuyoshi Watanabe

When I came to ICF as a volunteer in May of 1992, I never imagined one of my primary responsibilities would be to wear a crane costume and assist with rearing a group of Whooping Cranes to be released in Florida.

I grew up on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island. There, I attended Kushiro College of Hokkaido University for Education, in the city of Kushiro beside the famous Kushiro marsh. The marsh is well-known because it's home to Japan's treasured and endangered Red-crowned Crane (Tancho). Since my freshman year, I have been a volunteer at the Tsurui Ito Tancho Sanctuary at the northwest end of Kushiro marsh, so it was a logical move to become a volunteer at ICF. And aside from a month of chronic "language shock," I have had a wonderful experience in Wisconsin, where dairy farms and cold winters remind me of my home in Hokkaido.

In Japan I had read about the rarest crane, the Whooping Crane. I knew their numbers had slowly climbed from about 16 birds a half-century ago to more than a hundred. And I was aware that ICF and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center were primary players in the captive breeding of Whoopers.

Soon after my arrival, ICF received 11 Whooping Cranes eggs collected from the wild birds in Canada. These cranes lay two eggs but seldom rear two chicks. Collecting one egg from each nest with two eggs does not appear to reduce the number of chicks produced in the wild. One of the eggs we received was infertile, but the remaining ten eggs hatched. In addition, six eggs were hatched from Whooping Crane eggs laid by the captive birds at ICF. Four of the ICF-produced chicks (all grandchildren of ICF's famous Whooper, Tex) were to be hand-reared for future captive breeding. The remaining chicks were to be reared as wild birds, either by adult captive Whooping Cranes, or by humans wearing crane costumes.

From the time the crane chicks hatched in late May until they were sent to Florida for the reintroduction attempt in early January, they almost never saw a human that was not dressed like a crane. Rearing the birds in this manner helps them learn that they are cranes—avoiding the problems that occur when some hand-reared birds want to associate with people more than with cranes. In addition to visual conditioning, the chicks heard normal crane calls emitted from a small tape recorder suspended from my neck under the costume. Especially at first, it was hard

not to speak to those sound-sensitive, downy chicks.

I was amazed at how fast the Whooping Crane chicks grew. Exercise was extremely important to help their legs grow strong. Consequently for two hours a day, crane costumed keepers led the chicks around their grassy enclosure. In the evening, when the other people at ICF had gone home, we led the cranes from the rearing barn out across the prairies to the wetlands (see photo, page 5). Here the chicks probed in the shallows while we offered them insects and the fleshy roots of cattails. When the chicks fledged, I felt overwhelmed to watch a group of Whooping Cranes flying around the prairie, yet always coming back to me—their costumed parent. It was a wonderful, special event. To walk with wild birds, like one of the flock, was the fulfillment of a dream.

In early January, a team headed by veteran crane researcher Steve Nesbitt placed a group of 14 Whooping Cranes from ICF and Patuxent into a large release pen. The pen was located in the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area on Florida's Kissimmee Prairie. For the first month, removable wing restraints kept the birds from flying, while they acclimatized to their new surroundings.

In early February, I traveled with the ICF aviculturist responsible for chick rearing, Marianne Wellington, and the flock manager from Patuxent, Jane Nicolich, to visit the Florida release site. There we could observe the 14 treasured chicks in the release pen from an elevated blind. Looking down, I was amazed to notice that the Patuxent cranes were white, while the ICF cranes were reddish brown. Molting of the immature

plumage is retarded by cold temperatures. Since Maryland is warmer than Wisconsin, the birds from Patuxent were more advanced in the molt than their midwest relatives.

When we placed crayfish in a pond in the enclosure, the cranes readily learned to catch this natural food. It was important that the cranes learn to feed on natural food because, in captivity, they had been reared on pellets. After we removed their wing restraints, the cranes spent several days in the release pen before realizing they could fly. Then stretching forward, they faced the breeze, ran with wings flapping, and were airborne and over the fence to freedom.

Outside, they met wild Turkeys, Sandhill Cranes and bobcats. To our great sadness, five Whooping Cranes were killed by bobcats in the first month. Sometimes conservation work brings hard lessons. We hope that, as the survivors learn the ways of the wild, they will thrive in Florida.

This April, I return to Japan to complete my senior year and to write a thesis about my work at ICF. I bring with me many new ideas about crane management and research. I have a dream of applying this knowledge to the conservation of Red-crowned Cranes. Perhaps costume-reared Tanchos can be released in other areas of Hokkaido, from which they were extirpated more than a century ago. Even though the wild Tanchos have increased tremendously in numbers, they have not recolonized these other parts of Hokkaido. Perhaps the rarest of cranes, the Whooper, is leading the way for a technique that can be applied to endangered cranes in other countries.



As a crane father, volunteer Tsuyoshi Watanabe experienced that close partnership between human and bird that is so typical of ICF. Yoshi, a student from Japan, visited ICF for ten months. Thank you Yoshi, for helping and caring!

Today ICF has moved from the Sauey farm to a spacious 210-acre headquarters along Shady Lane Road, just five miles west of the piece of abandoned farmland where Aldo Leopold planted pine and prairies, and where he was inspired to write *A Sand County Almanac*. Leopold, more than any other person, was able to express in words the sentiments Ron and I shared about cranes: "When we hear his call we hear no mere bird. We hear the trumpet in the orchestra of evolution. He is the symbol of our untamable past, of that incredible sweep of millennia which underlies and conditions the daily affairs of birds and men. . . . The sadness discernable in some marshes arises, perhaps, from their once having harbored cranes. Now they stand humbled, adrift in history."

## Clear goals

To keep that crane music on the wetlands, Ron and I developed goals: through research on both wild and captive cranes we would determine what cranes need in order to survive. Through education, both of leaders and of local people, people would know how to prevent the death of cranes and the destruction of their habitats. And finally, as a safeguard against extinction, a "species bank" of captive cranes would be established, a population from which cranes could be returned to the wild when appropriate.

Twenty years later, ICF is implementing these goals through the excellent work of a gifted and dedicated staff of 22 year-round and 15 seasonal employees. Our volunteer Board of Trustees, under the superb leadership of Chairperson Mary Wickhem, includes 20 influential leaders from around the country who meet three times a year to guide our efforts. There will be approximately 50 volunteers working at ICF headquarters this year, while 21 leading conservationists from around the world serve on the ICF Board of Advisors. We are in contact with approximately 200 colleagues and 5,600 loyal members worldwide. Both members and colleagues are kept abreast of our work through *The ICF Bugle*.

ICF programs are managed by four departments. The International Department creates and coordinates overseas programs. The Field Ecology Department studies wild cranes and restores habitats both at ICF headquarters and abroad. The Education Department manages 30,000 annual visitors, organizes field trips and classes (see pages 6-7), administers the Wisconsin Crane Count, handles public relations, produces this newsletter and is now exploring the possibilities of helping nature reserves in Russia and Vietnam through teacher workshops and through



ICF started as a dream of two young men, and so we remember how important dreams are. Children are the hope for the future. At ICF, we make a special effort to nurture the young. Here, a baby meets a Red-crowned Crane chick at Khinganski Reserve in Russia.

"ecotourism." The Aviculture Department manages the captive cranes at ICF, helps other captive breeding centers (particularly with the genetic management of captive cranes) and produces Whooping Cranes and Siberian Cranes for release back into the wild.

The 14 staff involved in these programs are backed by a support staff of eight faithful people who raise funds, pay the bills, manage the office and the library, and keep our site in beautiful condition. This solid team of committed workers links with colleagues around the world to help cranes and their complex ecosystems.

When Ron and I were growing up, he in Wisconsin and I in Nova Scotia, we both kept game birds in captivity. When we met at Cornell in 1971, my interest in aviculture was demonstrated by a study-flock of 56 captive cranes of nine species. At that time, my primary interest was animal communication, and it was relatively straightforward to study the vocal and visual language of many crane species by working with captives. Consequently, it is not surprising that aviculture was (and still appears to many people to be) the most visible part of our work. We have been criticized by those who suggest that more emphasis should be placed on helping cranes in the wild. However, to appreciate our perspective in those early years, one must think back to the political realities of Asia during the turbulent 1970s.

## From Asia to North America

Most of the endangered cranes live in Asia,

the majority living within the borders of Russia and China. When ICF was incorporated in 1973, the USA was in the throes of the Vietnam War and deadlocked in Cold War with the former USSR. China was paralyzed by the Cultural Revolution, and it was not until 1979 that we were able to visit that nation.

A half-century ago, the North American Whooping Cranes, reduced to 16 survivors in the migratory flock, had been helped through a massive conservation partnership between the people of Canada and the USA. Ron and I reasoned that undoubtedly the endangered cranes of mainland Asia were in decline and that international cooperation was vital in helping them. But most of Asia was closed to Americans. Thus during ICF's first decade, we concentrated on establishing the species bank of Siberian, Red-crowned, White-naped, and Hooded cranes in Wisconsin. Overseas efforts were focused on Iran, India, South Korea and Thailand—the smaller but important nations that bordered the giants.

And in the late 1970s through friendship with one of Russia's foremost ornithologists, Professor Vladimir Flint, and under the auspices of the US-USSR Environment Agreement, we were able to secure Siberian Crane eggs from the wild to bolster our species bank in Baraboo. As the captive cranes responded to our care, we achieved the world's first captive breeding records for Hooded and Siberian Cranes.

A milestone in ICF's first two decades was

the 1989 division of the captive flock of Whooping Cranes at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland, and the arrival that autumn of 24 Whoopers at ICF's new street in Crane City, Whooper Way. Support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service allowed the employment of veterinary experts and an additional aviculturist. Since 1990, 21 Whoopers have been reared at ICF, and in January of 1993, eight cranes from ICF were released into the wild in Florida (see page 3). The experience of many years spent refining the art of aviculture now is helping to put cranes back into the wild.

Today, ICF's captive flock contains about 120 cranes, representing all 15 species. In the early years, our aviculturists spent most of their time working with captive cranes. Today, a significant portion of their time is allocated to working with colleagues at other captive breeding centers around the world. Rather than increasing the size of the captive flock at ICF, we are committed to helping zoos and other special captive breeding centers sharing the task of maintaining a genetically sound species bank. For example, ICF has helped establish breeding programs for Siberian Cranes in China, Germany and Russia. So although the world's captive populations of endangered cranes may increase, the number of breeding pairs at ICF is expected to remain constant.

It was not until 1979 that China's foremost ornithologist, Professor Cheng Tso-hsin, could invite me to visit with kindred spirits in Beijing. Then our field work proliferated in many regions of that vast nation. And finally, the massive changes in Russia during the last three years have enabled ICF to work in some of the most remote and formerly sensitive areas of the former USSR. The changes in policies of both China and Russia toward the US have enabled ICF to shift its focus from the species bank of captive cranes to the conservation of key habitats of wild cranes. It has been a wonderful privilege to have been involved in encouraging Chinese and Russian colleagues to establish several major nature reserves for cranes. And now ICF is the go-between in helping the Chinese and Russians work together on crane conservation.

The challenge of helping cranes in the wild will be based on continued growth in ICF's international, field ecology and education programs. Through the auspices of the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Animals, we hope eight Asian nations will become party to a Siberian Crane Agreement, and thereby implement the objectives of a Siberian Crane Recovery Plan now being drafted by our Russian Colleague, Dr. Alexander Sorokin. Two Chinese graduate students at the University of Wisconsin are

working with ICF in developing a habitat restoration program for western China's Sea of Grass, where Black-necked Cranes winter. And in the same area we hope to establish a Community Development Fund, whereby loans will be available to farmers to support economic activities that minimize negative impacts on sensitive wildlife habitats.

More and more, ICF seeks the advice of agriculture experts to develop plans to assure the welfare of both the local people and the cranes, particularly in southern Asia and in Africa where there are so many people. Benefits to local people from tourist dollars will also yield new opportunities, provided we can prevent ecotourism from having a negative impact on local cultures, natural areas and wildlife. International coordination, habitat restoration, and ecotourism are current areas for ICF growth, as we pursue our mission of keeping wild cranes in the skies.

### Anniversary celebration

ICF celebrates its 20th birthday on May 22. We hope many people who have been a part of ICF's growth will join us for that celebration. Barb Katz will be signing first editions of *So Cranes May Dance*, special tours and lectures will be given, and we will open our new Gerald and Gladys Scott International Guest House and Training Center, a building that perhaps, best of all, expresses our dreams for growth.

Gerald Scott was a high school biology teacher from Baraboo who encouraged Ron to study birds. Over the past two decades, Gerald and Gladys Scott, along with many other local people, have opened their homes and their hearts to ICF staff and visitors. The

Guest House honors our gratitude to the Scotts and to the Baraboo community.

At any one time, the Scott Guest House and Training Center will provide excellent living conditions for as many as 16 students and foreign colleagues studying at ICF. The lower level of the building, with six offices, two laboratories and a classroom, will accommodate growth of our field ecology programs to help the wild cranes and their habitats.

### Storks, ibises, and spoonbills

Our work with cranes in east Asia brought ICF in contact with two other critically endangered species, the Oriental White Stork and the Crested Ibis. Realizing the need for greater help to these birds that often share wetlands with cranes, and upon the advice of our Advisor, Professor Cheng Tso-hsin, we hope to collaborate with stork, ibis and spoonbill specialists to expand our mandate.

For short, we call this mixed group of long-legged wading birds "SIS," an acronym for storks, ibises, spoonbills. Although cranes are not found in South America, that continent is rich in SIS species. But as on other continents, natural habitats are disappearing. Consequently, if this direction of growth for ICF is assumed, ICF may soon play a role in conservation in Central and South America. Perhaps the SIS specialists can be accommodated in a few of the new offices on the lower level of the Scott House.

We look forward to sharing with you, our members, our continued progress. We are optimistic that we can help make this world a better place for cranes and other creatures of the vanishing wetlands and grasslands. Thank you for helping to convert our dreams into conservation realities.



At ICF, there's a special relationship between people and cranes. In 1992, crane costumed keepers reared eight Whooping Cranes for release in Florida. These cranes strengthened their aerial abilities by flying over ICF's restored habitats. And while the chicks grew, ICF's new Scott International Guest House and Training Center also took shape nearby.

# \$100,000 Gift for Whooper Exhibit

by Bob Hallam,  
Development Coordinator

Recently, ICF received a major gift of \$100,000 from the AMOCO Foundation of Chicago, Illinois, towards construction of the Whooping Crane Exhibit.

"As home for a pair of Whooping Cranes, the exhibit will be a focal point for guided tours at ICF," said ICF Director George Archibald. "The design of the exhibit will give the illusion of cranes wading in their natural habitat with no visible fencing." So far, we have raised \$135,000 toward the projected cost of \$175,000 for the Whooping Crane Exhibit.

## Kresge Challenge Grant

Last November, we reported that ICF's "Finishing the Campus" capital campaign had been awarded a challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation of Troy, Michigan. The approved grant of \$150,000 is for construction of the International Guest House and Training Center. Payment of the grant is conditional upon ICF raising an additional \$361,000 by December 1, 1993, for full funding and completion of the Guest House, and for completion of the \$1,231,000 campus campaign goal.

## We need your support

We want to express our deep gratitude to everyone who has pledged or contributed to the campaign. For those who have not contributed, we are enclosing an envelope in *The ICF Bugle*.

To date, ICF has raised \$1,189,586, so just \$41,414 is needed to complete the capital

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

campaign. You can help put ICF over the top! Please consider a gift to the capital campaign.

## Equipment donations needed

- Electric typewriter with correction key.
- IBM compatible computers with hard drive.
- Plain paper fax machine.

## Workshops at ICF

Workshops at Baraboo cost \$6 for non-members (free for ICF members). This fee includes admission to the site. Advance registration required—call Rose at (608) 356-9462.

### Crane Communication

Birds have a simple system of signals based on calls and postures. Find out about crane personalities. **When:** Saturday, 9-11 a.m., July 31. **Instructor:** Scott Swengel.

### What's Hatching at ICF

A hands-on, behind the scenes look at factors influencing eggs during incubation, and the methods ICF uses to hatch eggs. **When:** Saturday, 11-1 p.m., July 31. **Instructor:** ICF staff.

### Butterflies and Their Plants

Covers identification, habitat needs, how to get close. Learn to recognize when butterflies are nectaring, drinking, courting, and defending territories. **When:** Saturday, 1:30-3 p.m., July 31. **Instructor:** Ann Swengel.

### Raising Crane Chicks

Different rearing techniques are used to raise chicks for a variety of purposes. Find out how the crane costume is used. **When:** Saturday, 9-11 a.m., August 28. **Instructor:** ICF staff.

### People in the Prairie

View prairies through the eyes of a "sodbusting" farmer in the 1930's; walk through ICF's prairie to learn the folklore of European plants. **When:** Saturday, 11-1 p.m., August 28. **Instructor:** Wayne Pauly.

### Prairie Restoration—Values

Habitat is the key to wildlife. Learn about the importance of restoring our native prairies. **When:** Saturday, 1:30-3:30 p.m., August 28. **Instructor:** Jeb Barzen. **Special Instructions:** Be prepared for the field.

### Inside Crane City

A rare opportunity to tour ICF's breeding center with staff, meet some of our special birds, and learn about techniques. **When:** Saturday, 1:30-3:00 p.m., August 28 and September 25.

### Techniques of Radiotelemetry

Find out how biologists use radios to track cranes, and what they are learning about migration routes. **When:** Saturday, 9-11 a.m., September 25. **Instructor:** Gordon Dietzman.

### Techniques for Caring for Cranes

A tour of "Crane City," focussing on the special techniques that account for ICF's success in breeding cranes. **When:** Saturday, 11-1 p.m., Sept. 25. **Instructor:** ICF Staff.

**Prairie Restoration and Seed Preparation**  
Practical information about the methods of restoring our native prairies. **When:** Saturday, 1:30-3:30 p.m., September 25. **Instructor:** Rich Bielfuss. **Special Instructions:** Be prepared for the field.

### Pairing Cranes

Learn about how cranes are paired, see the video system for monitoring behavior, and hear stories from their lives. **When:** Saturday, 3:30-4:45 p.m., September 25. **Instructor:** ICF staff.

## Tribute to Larry Walkinshaw

by George Archibald, Director

On January 16, 1993, the cranes lost one of their best friends when Dr. Lawrence Walkinshaw (88) passed away. He was a pioneer in getting people interested in cranes, and the first to draw together information about cranes in one place.

When I first started to read about cranes in 1966, the name "Walkinshaw" permeated the literature. There was a comprehensive book, *The Sandhill Cranes*, published by Walkinshaw in 1949, and under his name were numerous scientific publications about the cranes of Asia, Africa, North America and Australia. Not infrequently on my travels, ornithologists would inquire with affection about the welfare of that distinguished gentleman, Dr. Walkinshaw. His monumental volume, *Cranes of the World*, was published in 1973, the same year ICF was established. During the past two decades, Larry has been a member of ICF's Board of Advisors.

Larry Walkinshaw spent most of his life in Michigan, where he made a living as a dentist and spent most of his free time tromping the wetlands in quest of information on Sandhill Cranes and other birds. One of those wetlands in Oceana County was named the Walkinshaw Wetland.

He retired from dentistry in 1968, but he never retired from studying cranes. His remarkable physical stamina made it sometimes difficult to keep up with Larry in the field. He constantly recorded information in his small note pad, and later typed his notes into journals, a practice he learned from his Scottish grandmother.

Larry's quiet, friendly manner greatly endeared him to his family and many friends. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Clara, his son Jim and daughter Wendy, and four grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by many. And through his remarkable contribution to the ornithological literature, he will never be forgotten.

# Contributions

Received January through March, 1993



**Lufthansa**

ICF's Official Airline

**Grants and Awards:** Keith & Virginia Anderson; George & Kyoko Archibald; Abigail Avery; Janis Berg; Peter & Marie Bernays; Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Foundation; The Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation; Robert Brumder; Chapman Foundation; Chicago Zoological Society; Victoria Shaw; Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; Armand G. Erpf Fund; Charles & Sophie Fox; Veronica Gayle; Donald & Janet Groschel; Walton Grundy; H. J. Hagge Foundation; Don & Eileen Herrling; Institute of Museum Services; Johnson Wax; Johnson Wax - Japan; Col. Edward Kurdziel; Lands' End; Frank Lehman; Lloyd & Patricia Maasch; Mason Foundation; Virginia Murray; Werner Nartel; Karl & Perle Olsson; Richard & Joyce Outland; Jim Rogers; David & Maureen Rorick; John & Elizabeth Ross; Norm Sauey, Jr.; Dr. D. A. Scott; Trent Shepard; Joan Sierakowski; Pat Stedman; Willis G. Sullivan, Jr.; Stan Temple; The World Bank; R. Roberta Throne; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Mary Wickhem; Wild Bird Society of Japan; Wisconsin Power & Light; Margaret Cullinan; Wray Charitable Lead Annuity Trust; Irvin Young Foundation.

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A male Whooping Crane, a female Sandhill Crane, and their hybrid "Whoophill" offspring appeared together near Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico, in November of 1992. This is the first known occurrence of Sandhills and Whoopers crossing in the wild, although several hybrids have been produced by artificial insemination at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Photo by John and Karen Hollingsworth.

Joshua F. Dein & Julia Langenberg; Joan DeWind; Olivia Dodge; Gerri Doebelin; Dr. Margaret Draeger; Cathy Drehmel; Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.; Barbara Elwood; John Erskine Lawrence & Rolene Fink; Lucas & Anne Fischer; Robert Foote; Karen E. Galley; Kennedy Gilchrist & Heide Wilde; Paul Graether; Mary Griffith; Dr. & Mrs. William Grubb, Jr.; Charles Haffner, III; Mr. & Mrs. Corwith Hamill; Gregg Hauser & Judy O'Young; Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Hickey; Paul Hickie; Hatsue Higa; Frank and Suzanne Hill; Jeffrey W. Hotson; Lt. Col. J. E. Jacoby; Patricia Jaffray; H. Fisk Johnson; Barry & Jane Jones; Kettle Moraine Garden Club; Anne Mary Klapat; Warren Knowles; Herbert Kohl Charities; Bob & Nan Kohls; Norma Kolthoff; Lakeland Audubon Society; Robert Laux & Ann Casey; Victoria Leslie; Lisa Lewke; Melanie Maas; James MacGregor; Mr. & Mrs. John Madigan; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Malmberg; Pierre Manigault; Kate Marrs; Mrs. Richard Mason; Mabel Mc Clanahan; Mr. & Mrs. John Meeker; Klaus Meindl & Marie Louise; Mr. & Mrs. T. W. Merritt, Jr.; C. Ferris Miller; Milwaukee Audubon Society; Bill & Emily Moore; New York Zoological Society; Clarence J. Newbold; Dorothy Nichols; Northland Cranberries, Inc.; John Swedrowski; Mrs. Edward Notz; Charlotte R. Oglesby; Carol Cecil Oleson; Virginia Olliver; Philip Orth; Dr. Judith Patrick; Audrey Pertl; Robert & Mary Peterson; Oliver Pittenger & Kathy Drazen; Charles Potter, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Potter; Mr. & Mrs. Albert Pyott; George & Vicky Ranney, Jr.; Birgit Rennenhampff; Rosemary Ripley; Gene & Rochelle Robkins; Harold Rock & Margaret Jahnke; John & Beth Ross; Mr. & Mrs. William

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## Fall Field Trips

**Field trip to Vernon Marsh** (a fen) and Beuleah Bog. Explore these unique wetland communities and look at endangered plants. **When:** Saturday, 9-12 a.m., September 11. **Instructor:** Don Reed. **FEE:** \$5/non member, \$3/member. **Special Instructions:** Bring repellent. Prepare for feet wet to ankles. Directions upon registration (608) 356-9462.

**Field Trip to Sandhill Wildlife Area**  
Overnight, Saturday-Sunday, October 16-17.  
\$35/30.

Save Saturday, October 23, 1993  
for ICF's Annual Meeting:  
See next newsletter  
for details

# Tibetan Cranes Depend On Winter Croplands

by Jim Harris, Deputy Director

Our plane climbed steeply from the Chinese city of Chengdu, crossing a thousand peaks pink with snow in the dawn. Deep gorges dropped to rivers invisible in the mist—the origins of the Yangtze, Mekong, and Salween Rivers. Endless trees bristled across slopes which, until recently, were inaccessible. But now roads have been constructed, and logging has begun. Then ahead, we saw the icy crest of Himalayas.

We landed south of Lhasa and then drove over a narrow road passing through farmland, with dry mountains rising behind. We crossed the blue channel of the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra River), and followed the smaller valley of the Lhasa River. The light was sharp, and our lungs felt the 12,000-foot altitude as we descended from our bus. Twenty Black-necked Cranes paced over the nearby fallow field, picking waste barley from the ground.

I traveled with Dr. Mary Bishop, ICF Research Associate, and a group of ICF trustees and members to begin the third winter season of research on the Black-necked Cranes. Together with Professor Gu Binyuan and Researcher Cang Jue Zhouma from the Tibetan Plateau Institute of Biology (TPIB), we also evaluated previous results of our work. And we were delighted by news that the Tibetan Government is creating a nature reserve for cranes at Linzhou.

Although the cranes nest in the most remote parts of the Tibetan Plateau, winter forces them down into snow-free valleys populated by people. The cranes have accommodated to agriculture for centuries, as the Tibetans love cranes and other wild birds. But here, as elsewhere across Asia, rural traditions change, threatening the old balances with wildlife.



The valley of the Lhasa River is one of several in southern Tibet with critical importance for Black-necked Cranes. Here barley fields provide winter food, while shallow river channels serve as nighttime roosts. In Tibet and elsewhere across Asia and Africa, ICF programs increasingly emphasize integrating needs of wildlife and local peoples. Agricultural practices will shape the future for Black-necked Cranes in Tibet. Photo by J. Harris.

Mary Bishop and the TPIB biologists have found that in winter, the cranes feed almost entirely in farmlands. As these narrow valleys have no expansive wetlands, farming methods have tremendous impact on the cranes. Our data show that cranes favor traditional barley fields over the newly introduced winter wheat. In addition, we believe that unplowed barley fields offer more grain after the harvest than do fields plowed in autumn.

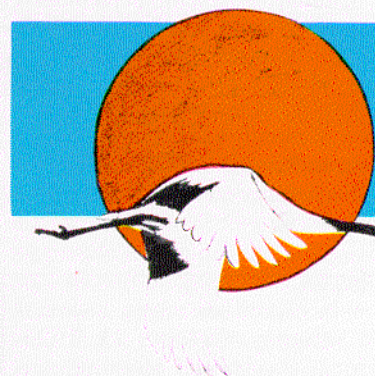
Our three-year project has found as many as 3,910 Black-neckeds wintering in Tibet, several times the previous population estimates for the species worldwide. We believe their future can be assured through a proper balance of crops and farming methods, to be achieved by designating special management zones at the main wintering sites.

During our visit, we laid plans for next year.

The ICF-TPIB team will complete analysis of our extensive data on feeding and habitat use by the cranes. We will prepare a list of what the crane flocks need in winter. A central requirement appears to be gravel bars and shallow river channels for roosting. Next year, our research will focus on characterizing roost sites. These appear vulnerable as economic development expands in Tibet's river valleys, because water is a scarce resource. The ICF-TPIB team will then meet with Agriculture and Forestry personnel to develop land-use guidelines for the crane areas, to assure that farmers and cranes can continue to live together.

For its work in Tibet, ICF acknowledges major support from the Brehm Fund for International Bird Conservation, and additional grants from the Chicago Zoological Society, General Service Foundation, and World Wildlife Fund.

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## International Crane Foundation

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