

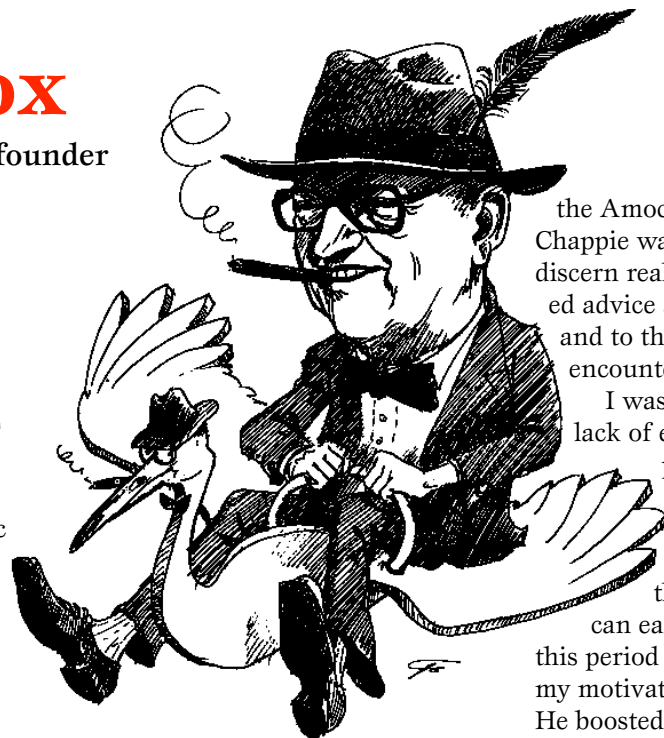
Chappie Fox

By George Archibald, ICF Co-founder

Chappie Fox, of circus fame, was passionate about nature. He faithfully served on ICF's board from 1984 through 1997 and as an Honorary Director until he passed away September 12, 2003. Through his friendship with ICF's co-founder, Ron Sauey, Chappie was involved with ICF - the idea - even before the organization was founded in 1973.

In December 1971, two enthusiastic graduate students had a historic conversation about setting up a center for cranes. The more cautious of the two, Ron Sauey, wrote for advice from his neighbor and confidant, Chappie Fox. Chappie's enthusiastic endorsement helped launch an idea that soon translated into cranes on the Sauey farm near Baraboo.

In 1984, not long after retiring as Director of Circus Research for Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Florida, Chappie and



Caricature drawn by Victor Bakhtin

his wife Sophie moved back to Baraboo. Chappie immediately joined ICF's Board and became an active participant in a building program that ended in 1995 with the construction of

the Amoco Whooping Crane Exhibit. Chappie was a wise man who could discern reality and provide much-needed advice and encouragement to me and to the organization when we encountered rough water.

I was often concerned about my lack of expertise in managing complicated planning, personnel and financial issues. With a twinkle in his eye, Chappie would remind me that helpers with those skills can easily be found, but during this period of growth, ICF depended on my motivation, enthusiasm and ideas. He boosted my much-needed self-confidence.

Immaculately dressed with a top hat, bow tie and cigar, Chappie was a gentlemen's gentleman. He is immortal in the world of the circus, and he will be long remembered for his many contributions to the cranes of the world.

THE ICF BUGLE

World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes

The Zambezi Delta: A Gift To The Earth

By Rich Beilfuss, ICF Africa Program Director and Carlos Bento, Museum of Natural History-Mozambique

For nearly a decade, ICF and the Museum of Natural History-Mozambique have been working with colleagues in Mozambique to raise awareness about the delta of the great Zambezi River. The Zambezi Delta supports a diverse mosaic of wetland communities, from vast open floodplains to impenetrable mangrove forests, and abundant wildlife including Cape buffalo, elephant, and Mozambique's largest concentration of waterbirds.

The delta is home to 120 breeding pairs of endangered Wattled Cranes and provides critical refuge for up to 30% of their global population during times of extreme drought in southern Africa. The delta is also home to tens of thousands of people who have long fished the delta's waters and farmed its rich soils in harmony with this wildlife bounty. But the delta today is severely affected by large dams and other development projects that threaten to destroy these fertile lands forever. We seek an alternative future for this magnificent wetland, a

future committed to restoring and sustaining its wildlife and its way of life.

This fall our efforts were rewarded as the Government of Mozambique designated 688,000 hectares of the Zambezi Delta as a *Wetland of International Importance* under the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention is the world's foremost international agreement for the protection and sustainable use of wetlands, and assures the careful management of the delta for future generations. The designation of the Zambezi Delta—the first *Wetland of International Importance* in Mozambique—was honored as a “Gift to the

Earth” by the World Wildlife Fund, their highest award for globally significant conservation achievement.

As part of this commitment, we have joined in a consortium of government and non-government organizations to prepare a comprehensive management plan that includes everyone who has a stake in the future of the delta. We salute the Government of Mozambique for its foresight and commitment.



Wattled Cranes. Photo by Ian Corbutt

The Zambezi Delta was recently designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention, offering new opportunities for the conservation and management of this vital wetland and the Zambezi watershed that sustains it. Photo by Rich Beilfuss



International Crane Foundation

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Whooping Cranes, Crabs, and Freshwater Inflows: a Delicate Chain

By Felipe Chavez-Ramirez, Avian Ecologist and Director, Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust

A Whooping Crane in the salt water marshes along the Texas coast is a beautiful sight to see. It also is a great privilege to see one of these great white birds, as there presently are less than 200 wild individuals in this population. Fortunately, it is relatively easy to view these birds, as they all occupy a small portion of the Texas coast every year from October through March. Most of the area occupied by Whooping Cranes is in the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding marsh areas. The large white cranes are easy to observe in the right locations, because mated pairs maintain winter territories, which they will defend against other cranes. Whooping Cranes are conspicuous and basically impossible to miss if one is traveling near the shoreline either by boat in the bay or other vehicle near the upland portion of the marshes. If one takes a closer look at what the cranes are doing in the salt marsh, it is just a matter of time before a Whooping Crane catches and eats a blue crab, the main food source of these birds in winter along the Texas coast.

I began studying Whooping Crane foraging ecology in 1992 with the intention of quantifying in more detail what the cranes feed on during the winter, and also how important those food items were to the overall diet of Whooping Cranes. My results not surprisingly demonstrated that blue crabs were very important for cranes in total number of food items consumed

and the amount of total biomass ingested. In estimating the amount of energy provided to cranes in the winter time we encountered a surprising and unexpected result. Over two different winter periods I documented the number of crabs present in the marsh, the number of crabs consumed by cranes, and the amount of energy that the crabs consumed represented in the overall diet of the cranes. We discovered that in a good crab year (when



Adult Whooping Cranes teach their young to forage for blue crabs. Each year the last wild flock of Whooping Cranes migrates from Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada to the Aransas Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Photo by George Archibald

crabs are abundant) Whooping Cranes can consume 7-8 crabs per hour (totaling up to 80 crabs per day), while in a bad crab year (when they are not abundant) they only consume approximately 3 crabs per hour (for a total of about 35 crabs per day). In translating the amount of energy represented by the crabs and other food items consumed, we determined that individual Whooping Cranes were able to consume energy in excess of their daily energy requirements in a good crab year. In low crab years, however,

the cranes barely, and in some cases did not, meet their daily energy requirements with the number of crabs that they could capture.

The significance of this observation is that when cranes consume more energy than what they utilize in a day, they are able to store that energy in the form of fat. The stored energy can be important for use in migration and even reproduction on the breeding grounds. We found a correlation between good crab years in the wintering grounds and good nesting and productivity the following spring. During low crab years crane mortality has been observed to be greater, and nesting and productivity are diminished relative to good years. Other factors in the breeding grounds also contribute to crane productivity, such as water levels in nesting marshes that can influence food resources for chicks and the movement of predators.

Given the significance of blue crabs to Whooping Cranes, it is important to understand the ecological and physical factors that influence the abundance of blue crabs in the salt marshes of the Texas wintering grounds. Freshwater inflows provide high nutrient areas where crabs congregate and mate, thereby producing more crabs. Freshwater inflows also affect the water salinity of the marsh, which in turn can influence the presence of

blue crabs and their larval forms.

Fresh water in Whooping Crane salt marshes has another significance from the cranes' perspective. The salinity of sea water is 35 parts per thousand, and the salinity of the marshes is highly variable depending on the amount of fresh water that enters there via rainfall, runoff, and inflows from adjacent rivers. Whooping Cranes can drink water from the marshes when the salinity is less than 23 parts per thousand. Above that value the cranes must seek freshwater in adjacent uplands. While there are plenty of fresh water sources near crane territories, the presence of cranes in uplands increases the possibility of predation and also expands time and energy. Bobcats are common in the uplands and are known to predate on Whooping Cranes in the wild. The more fresh water inflow the Whooping Crane marshes receive, the less likely that cranes will expose themselves to predation by seeking fresh water in the uplands.

Understanding the natural relationships between organisms and their environments is not enough to guarantee their long-term protection. The understanding of those relationships can help us recognize possible effects of human activities and modifications to their environment. In Texas, the Guadalupe River, the main source of fresh water for Whooping Crane marshes, is being considered for additional exploitation by which river water would be harvested before entering the bay and pumped back for use by the city of San Antonio.

The Guadalupe River is just one of many examples worldwide where all available water sources are being considered for human use, to the detriment of wildlife and the environment. So while we know the general patterns — fresh water affects crab populations and numbers, and crab abundance is important for Whooping Cranes — there are many details that require further investigation. For example, while the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department keeps track of crab numbers in the bays adjacent to Whooping Crane wintering areas, we do not have consistent monitoring of crabs in the marshes where Whooping Cranes search for them.

We have initiated a project to evaluate what factors influence the abundance and movement of blue crabs to the salt marshes where Whooping Cranes spend the winter foraging for them. We are using direct observations and measurements but also are investigating the use of underwater and above water cameras to monitor the movement of crabs in and out of the marsh. Even though there may be many crabs in the deep waters of the bays, if they are not present in shallow water areas of Whooping Crane territories, they are inaccessible to the cranes. By understanding what influences movement of crabs we may better design and implement management strategies to enhance and protect this critical food resource of the Whooping Cranes in winter.

With human populations growing there will only be increased demand for fresh water for municipal and other uses that may further limit the water available for wildlife. With better information, perhaps we can find solutions for water use that benefit both wildlife and humans. The Aransas-Wood Buffalo population of Whooping Cranes once numbered 15 birds in the wild. Through the work and dedication of many individuals and organizations, cranes were protected and allowed to increase. Human actions caused the decrease of Whooping Cranes to near extinction, but human actions also contributed to the species' increase. This upswing in the crane's population has made the Whooping Crane an international symbol of conservation and hope for other species. It would be a sad day indeed when humans knowingly alter the environment to such a degree that we can no longer witness these majestic birds catching and eating blue crabs in their wintering grounds along the Texas coast.



Felipe's work is made possible with support from the Houston Endowment, the Brown Foundation, the International Crane Foundation and the Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust.

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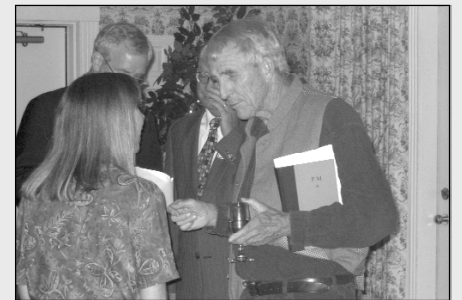
Celebrating 30 Years

Close to 300 people attended this year's Annual Meeting held on Saturday, September 13. You know ICF has incredibly dedicated members when everyone is enjoying their crane tours in the rain! Spending an evening with Peter Matthiessen warmed everyone's hearts. As he shared his adventures of traveling around the world in search of cranes, ICF's history came to life. Thank you to everyone who joined us this year.

This year's Good Egg Awards were given to Bill and Ireene Sullivan and Peter Matthiessen for their outstanding contributions to cranes and to ICF.



Ireene & Bill Sullivan visit with ICF President Jim Harris (center). Photo by Susan Finn



ICF members & staff enjoyed Peter Matthiessen's company. Photo by Sergei Smirenski

**Annual Meeting 2004
Saturday Sept. 11**

Shop and Benefit Cranes!

Some ICF members may receive a catalog from an organization called Art for the Animals, which offers donation packages where you can make a holiday gift to ICF in the name of a friend or family member, and that person will receive a handcrafted piece of folk art created by artisans living in or near areas important to cranes. If you are interested in receiving a catalog or want to learn more about this program, please visit www.artfortheanimals.org.

Hosting an Ageless Journey

By Dick and Jane-Sweet Freedom Farm, Wisconsin



Second star to the right...straight on 'til morning.

That's the way we imagine the eager, young whoopers think of us as they approach Sweet Freedom Farm in the October crisp of a new dawn. We stand on our runway looking north, straining to hear the wee engines of the ultralights, binoculars searching for the flapping line off the wing of the toy craft, so bravely flown by our friends.

They're spotted. We run for cover. Even as the second stop on the migration, many factors can dog the arrival we've so anxiously

awaited. Weather, winds, ultralight maintenance, the strength and training of the birds, or maybe just the unbridled fear of crossing the Interstate for the first time can alter the best plans.

Undercover in the horsebarn, peeking over the top of the silo deck, or in the dairy barn hayloft, we all perch to gasp and thrill. The two lead ultralights buzz by to circle around. The birds follow and descend to the far end of the runway, their backs arched, their legs stretching and reaching for their deserved rest on this new domain. They have flown farther this day than ever before. The chase ultralight glides down and pulls up close to the house as aromas of coffee and breakfast beckon.

Once earthbound on the grass, the fledglings shed their power and elegance to become the young, gawky birds following a pied piper in an outrageous costume. They cross a short field to plunge into a shallow pond to refresh and play.

Meanwhile, the cover plane lands, the support crew pulls in with trucks and trailers to quickly

assemble the pen. (Recently, a second pen leapfrogs ahead of the migration). The circus has arrived, the tent is up, and we're all ready to perform.

The first juggling act is to guess how much food you'll need to feed the 15-20 crew members. The first year we expected an overnight stay, a couple of meals, and they'd be gone. Four days later, we'd exhausted our

freezer, our imagination and nearby restaurants, awaiting a new propeller from California.

The second year we were fully stocked for a week's stay, only to have our guests for just one night! The third year they became family with a six-day stay. Unfortunately, wife Jane missed the entire stay as the expected arrival date of Oct. 7 stretched on until Oct. 21, the day of her planned Europe departure. Every migration team member now

fully knows his or her way around our kitchen as Dick enlisted every member for meal prep and clean up.

The days with the migration start very early as the team rises for coffee and weather checks by 5 am. The departure is always on... until all the facts are in—frost and a flight check in an ultralight to test the winds.

The crew comes in sleepy-eyed in twos and threes until our big farm table is surrounded, festive with a quick breakfast and conversation. For those too busy to come in, a plate and coffee to go are delivered.

Should the day not be propitious for departure, the anticipation and flurry turns to quiet and some disappointment, as our guests go back to their trailers for various chores or a catnap.

Then the day becomes full of possibilities...munching, hiking, ATV, mule or horseback riding, press interviews via phone, drives to get supplies or

new engine parts, and website updates. These are wonderful days that go well into the evening with playing cards, storytelling, wine, and pulling jokes on each other.

Each next morning is a replay of early rising, a flurry of activity, and ultimately the eventual take off of the ever-questing migration.

We now know the fine people that are awaiting them on their next stop... and the next. Operation Migration hosted a reunion of all landing site hosts along the flight path from Wisconsin to Florida. Many of us convened in Tennessee last spring for a wonderful weekend. It's easier now when the migration leaves, knowing how dedicated and anxious those new friends are hosting them all along the way.

For us, there'll be at least two more years sharing in the grand adventure, this bold Whooping Crane experiment. Yet, forever imbued in our universal consciousness is the magical morning of wonder and tears as these most ancient of birds... and most contemporary of men... soar off to crown the blazing, 1.7 billion-year-old Baraboo Hills on this ageless journey.



Chicks number 10 and 2 make themselves at home at The Sweet Freedom Farm. Photo by Sara Zimorski



Operation Migration pilots lead the young Whooping Cranes down Dick and Jane's grass runway to a night pen that was set up prior to the bird's arrival.



Costumed caretakers help the birds acclimate to their new surroundings, at just the second stop on a 1,228-mile journey.



Dick and Jane's farm table quickly fills up as the ground crew eats breakfast and relaxes on a morning when the weather is not suitable for migration.



The migration team relaxes with Dick (front) before their long journey south.

For more information on this Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership project go to: bringbackthecranes.org

For daily ultralight migration updates on the 2003 Whooping Cranes go to: Operation Migration operationmigration.org

To track the 2001 & 2002 cohorts now migrating on their own, go to: International Crane Foundation savingcranes.org

Contributions for July 2003 – September 2003

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ICF Photo Archives

Inspiring a Global Community

The global network of people working for cranes continues to grow, in good part because of support from ICF members. Here Aeshita Mukherjee visits a nest of the Sarus Crane in northern India, where intensive agriculture is causing widespread decline of the world's tallest flying bird. Please give to ICF's Annual Campaign, and help cranes inspire people around the world! Contact Sally 608-356-9462 x 145 to make a gift today.

Travel with George Archibald!

George hopes to lead three expeditions to "hot spots" for cranes in 2004. The Cranes of the Platte River, Nebraska in April, Wood Buffalo National Park and Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary in subarctic Canada in August, and back to Bhutan in November. If you are interested in these expeditions, please contact Julie Zajicek (julie@savingcranes.org or 608-356-9462 ext. 156).

The ICF Bugle is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation. ICF was founded in 1973 by Ronald Sauey, Ph.D (1948 - 1987) and George Archibald, Ph. D. Bugle comments or questions? Please write or call Kate kate@savingcranes.org or P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI, 53913 1-608-356-9462, ext. 147.

Editor: Kate Fitzwilliams

Memberships are vital to ICF. Please join or give a membership to a friend at the following annual rates:

Student or Senior Citizen	\$20
Individual	\$25
Foreign	\$30
Family	\$35
Associate	\$100
Sustaining.....	\$250
Sponsor.....	\$500
Patron	\$1,000
Benefactor	\$2,000

Lufthansa, Long-time Friend to the Cranes

By Jim Harris, President

On 17 May 1983, a Lufthansa flight left America with most unusual passengers – Siberian Crane eggs, laid by captive cranes at ICF in Baraboo and destined for placement in wild crane nests 9,000 miles away in the Soviet Union. ICF co-Founder George Archibald accompanied the eggs, in the earliest of experiments to return captive-produced Siberian Cranes to the wild.

Lufthansa played a key role, donating the flights. Flight attendants kept George supplied with hot refills for the water bottle, warming the eggs through their long journey.

Lufthansa airplanes – each of them bearing the company's crane logo – fly to more than 300 cities around the world. The German airline has been one of ICF's oldest friends, assisting cranes for over 20 years.

I am just back from a trip to Russia and to Germany, where I flew to Hamburg on a free flight from Lufthansa. While sitting to dinner in the farmhouse of craniac Carl-Albrecht von Treuenfels, I stumbled across another instance of Lufthansa's creative support: a two-foot tall statue of a crowned crane, made in Johannesburg out of scrap metal. With long legs, strong beak and flamboyant crown,

The International Crane Foundation is pleased to announce our new Charitable Gift Annuity Program!

What is a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA), you may ask? Simply put, a CGA is a type of gift that benefits both the charity (ICF) and the donor (you). ICF benefits by receiving a contribution to support our worldwide mission to protect cranes and their habitats, while you benefit by having ICF provide you or someone designated by you with an income for life.

Annuity rates are based on the age of the donor (the older the person, the higher the payout rate), so most CGA donors are over 70 years old. Other donors choose to establish a CGA and

this sharp bird would be a real challenge to carry from South Africa to



Twenty years ago, Lufthansa supported the first shipment ever of Siberian Crane eggs from ICF to Russia, and the start of reintroduction experiments. Lufthansa has been a generous and consistent supporter of crane conservation in Germany and worldwide. Photo by George Archibald

Germany. This past summer, I was surprised to learn Lufthansa flew 200 of the statues to Frankfurt, free of charge. The airline then advertised the showy cranes in its internal newsletter and website and sold all of them in two days! All proceeds went to the South African Crane Working Group.

Lufthansa has been a generous and strong ally, keeping the global crane network strong with donated flights for ICF staff and many others. In Europe, Lufthansa's long-term involvement has been essential as researchers

closely coordinate Eurasian Crane studies across the continent. Their combined effort has aided recovery of Eurasian Cranes in rural landscapes long used by people, similar to the dramatic recovery of Sandhills in farmlands of Wisconsin.

Lufthansa has been the primary supporter in creation of the Crane Information Center (managed by "Kranichschutz Deutschland" of the two NGO's NABU and WWF Germany), a handsome facility in the village of Gross Mohrdorf of northeastern Germany. This center is full of exhibits and staffed by crane enthusiasts who interpret the spectacular crane resting areas along the Baltic Sea in the Ruegen and Bock area of the province (federal state) of Mecklenburg-

Vorpommern, where 50,000 migrant cranes pause en route to France and Spain for winter.

Most recently, Lufthansa provided funds to Elena Ilyashenko, ICF's coordinator for the crane flyways of Russia and former states of the Soviet Union. Elena organized Crane Day celebrations at numerous widely scattered wetlands, with art activities for children made possible by Lufthansa.

Our deep thanks to Lufthansa and its long-term commitment, that has helped power our efforts worldwide.

designate their parents or siblings as recipients of the income, or they use the CGA to supplement their retirement income. No matter what option you select, a portion of the income is a tax-free return of principal, resulting in an attractive cash flow to you or your loved ones. And remember, fixed payments will continue as long as you live.

What other circumstances might indicate that a CGA is right for you?

- The interest rates on your CDs or other fixed-income investments have declined and you want to increase your cash flow.

- You would like the security of fixed payments that are unaffected by interest rates and stock prices.

- You want to assure continuation of payments to a surviving spouse without the delay of probate proceedings.

- You want to increase your income substantially while helping fulfill the vision of ICF.

If you would like to learn more about our CGA program, please contact ICF's Director of Development, Bob Lange (608-356-9462 x140, or blange@savingcranes.org). We thank you in advance for your interest.