

The ICF

Bugle

Inspiring a Global Community

Volume 33, Number 1

February 2007

Reason to Celebrate

By Joan Garland, Acting Director of Education

Photo by Richard Urbanek, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) celebrated another success this year when the “First Family” arrived at their winter territory in Florida. Whooping Crane number W1-06 is the first wild-hatched chick in the eastern migratory population and the first to complete the fall migration by following her parents, numbers 11-02 and 17-02. The family began migration from the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin on November 19, and remained at their first migration stop in Vermillion County, Indiana, until they resumed migration on December 7. Two days later they arrived at the

Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge pensite in Florida where they stayed to roost. On December 10, they left the refuge and flew to the winter territory of numbers 11-02 and 17-02.

This one event is what all of us involved in this reintroduction project have been working towards—the countless hours, achievements, disappointments and frustrations, along with time away from family and friends—have led to this milestone in endangered species recovery.

Congratulations to all WCEP partners and supporters!

More on Whooping Cranes page 2

Mark Your Calendar!

Volunteer Training

Saturday, March 24 & 31st • 9-4 p.m.

Annual Midwest Crane Count

Saturday, April 14 • 5:30-7:30 a.m. • www.cranecount.org

Contact the Education Dept. 608-356-9462 ext. 127

Art Reception and Open House

Featuring photographs by Birgit

Bateman and ICF stories from India

Saturday, June 23 • 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Donnelley Family Education Center



DIRECT AUTUMN RELEASE

For the second year in a row, four juvenile Whooping Cranes made their first southward migration this fall as part of the Direct Autumn Release (DAR) project. Biologists from ICF and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reared the four cranes at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and released them in the company of older cranes.

Though migrating in two separate groups, the four DAR cranes all arrived in Florida on the same date. Two of the DAR cranes began their migration with a pair of Whooping Cranes from the "Class of 2003". They left Necedah NWR on November 30 and completed their migration to Florida in just eight days.

The other two DAR cranes began their migration on October 28, also arriving in Florida on December 8.

ULTRALIGHT-LED MIGRATION

This year's ultralight-led migration was one of the most successful in the project's six-year history. The season at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge began on June 26, with the first shipment of Whooping Crane chicks from the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. By July 20, eighteen Whooping Crane chicks were in training at Necedah. The chicks were hatched at Patuxent from eggs provided by the following captive breeding centers: ICF, Patuxent, Calgary Zoo, and Audubon Species Survival Center. One of the eggs this year represented a milestone for the project—the first egg hatched from a nest in the wild! The egg was collected at Necedah after the parents abandoned their nest.

After a successful training season at Necedah, all 18 Whooping Cranes and four ultralight aircraft with Operation Migration departed for Florida on October 5. Despite the early departure date, the migration was hampered by inclement weather. Nevertheless, the migration progressed smoothly with no injuries to cranes or crew. On December 19, after 1,200+ miles and 76 days (the longest duration to date), the cranes arrived at their temporary winter home at the Halpata-Tastanki Preserve in Florida. This temporary site is used until the previous years' Whooping Cranes leave the pensite at the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge and move inland.

On January 11 and 12, the 18 juveniles were reunited with the ultralights and successfully flew to their final winter home at Chassahowitzka. There are now 81 Whooping Cranes in the eastern migratory population. We still have a long road ahead of us, but we have accomplished much in only six years.



Photo by Joan Garland



Notes from ICF President Jim Hook . . . accomplishments of 2006

On behalf of all of us at the International Crane Foundation, I would like to thank our many constituents for your tremendous participation and support over the past calendar year and to wish you a very Happy New Year for 2007. I hope to see many of you at our next Annual Meeting scheduled for September 22, 2007, if not before.

I am sure you can all appreciate that 2006 was a transitional year that brought much change to our organization. As 2006 ends, I think it most appropriate to highlight recent ICF accomplishments that speak to your generosity and to the resiliency and strength of the organization and its talented staff:

- ICF's **Phu My** project in Vietnam, featured in the November 2006 *ICF Bugle*, has won the Dubai Award for 2006. We were one of 12 winners among 700 applicants. The award includes \$30,000 for the project. This support is highly important as we work with Phu My villagers to make the handbag-weaving project economically sustainable for the long term while benefiting the wetlands and the Eastern Sarus Cranes. The Field Ecology Team has done a great job!

- ICF has been notified by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of its temporary approval of the non-lethal bird repellent, Avitec**, on field and sweet corn for a second year. This approval significantly advances ICF's goal to reduce arising conflicts between farmers and the increasing population of Sandhill Cranes in the Midwest. Good persistent effort by our Field Ecology Team!

- In December, the **Wisconsin Natural Resources Board unanimously approved the Wisconsin Whooping Crane Management Plan**. In discussing

the plan, several board members commented on the importance of the project and specifically cited the contribution ICF has made in its very key Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership role. This project could not happen without significant efforts by our Crane Conservation, Veterinarian and Education Departments.

- In December, **George Archibald** was **recognized** in a letter of gratitude from the Government of Sakha (Yakutia) for his "meritorious service in the area of Siberian Crane restoration as one of the symbols of peoples inhabiting Yakutia, preservation of vulnerable northern environment and nature conservation relations between the countries." Congratulations, George!

- Also, thanks to strong donor support, **we surpassed our \$600,000 Enriching Our Alliances campaign goal** for 2006. Gifts to the campaign were doubled by generous challenge grants from the Makray Family Foundation, the Eugenie Mayer Bolz Foundation, ICF's Board of Directors, and ICF co-founder George Archibald. This success allows ICF to strengthen its global partnerships and to expand its education and outreach programs in the coming year so that more people around the world will learn about conservation and the importance of protecting cranes and their habitats.

As we look into 2007, and our next fiscal year beginning on April 1, we should feel very good about who we are and our prospects for the future. I am very happy to be President of this organization during this very important time in our history. I look forward to meeting and working with many of you as we further realize our exciting potential.

Two New Projects Enhance Flyway Conservation

By James Harris, Vice President



China Crane Flyway Project

I sat in the back of the class, students close to either side. ICF and the Beijing Brooks Education Center, a conservation organization based in China, have worked with Chinese schools for the past three years developing education materials that view natural resources through the perspectives of local communities. The teacher was calm and confident, encouraging students as one by one they explained the hand drawn map taped to the blackboard. The map showed the crane flyway across eastern China. The students pointed out one important stopover after another, including their own home by Xianghai wetland. They knew that each link in the migration was essential to the journeys of cranes.

In another school, students had been asking their grandparents about changes to Zhalong wetland. The students were eager to report. At first I thought that just one or two star pupils were speaking before the foreign visitor. But more and more students stood and explained the beauty of Zhalong, and what had been lost during the past generation. They knew the problems in detail, they see them everyday.

One said, "We need water." Without water, the marshes and their own lives suffer. Other students had drawn diagrams of the fish nets that allow no fish to escape. Year after year the size of the fish harvests from Zhalong diminish.

A generous three-year grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, part of the ConocoPhillips *SPIRIT of Conservation Migratory Bird Program*, is enabling ICF to strengthen awareness and conservation of cranes and their habitats along the crane flyway that crosses one of the most rapidly developing regions on earth. Our work is closely integrated with ICF activities under the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project (see page 1 of the November 2006 *ICF Bugle*).

Our *China Crane Flyway Project* focuses on key challenges. Successful conservation, in part, depends on addressing local needs at each site. Yet flyway conservation must address broader issues, in particular water. Northern China faces a severe shortage of water due to development as well as frequent drought that appears to reflect climate change. This threat does not affect just one wetland but all wetlands in the region. The GEF project is seeking action at high governmental levels to ensure sufficient water to a network of wetlands. The *China Crane Flyway Project* is supporting field monitoring that documents how the wetlands are degrading, and will help track success of water releases and wetland restoration.

At mid-point in the flyway, we will be monitoring birds and wetlands along the migration bottleneck where mountains approach the heavily developed coast of Bohai near Tianjin. At the south end of the flyway,

where water is abundant, we are supporting efforts to expand and strengthen the array of protected areas at Poyang Lake, to ensure diverse habitats for cranes under variable water conditions.

Three White Cranes, Two Flyways, and One World

The cranes are a world treasure, and the challenges and solutions for crane conservation have many similarities in different regions. Chinese and Russian students and teachers, who view their homelands as part of a magnificent Asian flyway, are fascinated to know that students and teachers on the other side of the world – along the eastern crane flyway in the United States – share similar cares and concerns. The three white cranes – the Red-crowned and Siberian of eastern Asia, and the Whooping Crane of North America – are the three rarest of cranes. Their charisma involves many people in conservation.

Our new project, *Three White Cranes, Two Flyways, One World* will help students on the two continents understand one another and crane conservation on a global scale. We will be supporting teacher visits from one continent to schools in the other. Our project website, in two languages, will provide information about the flyways, the wetlands, the cranes and – equally important – the students who care.

For American classrooms, we offer the opportunity to post pictures and stories of how students have become involved with conservation on our project website. To learn more, or to send postings for our website, visit www.trackingcranes.org/USA or email us at trackingcranes@savingcranes.org

Children's art transcends barriers of language and distance. Contact ICF if you would like to share student art for exhibition at ICF and then East Asia where ultimately the art will be given to Chinese and Russian students. In turn, ICF will be bringing Chinese and Russian art to tour our eastern flyway.

Global understanding and a readiness to act, among people along the flyways, can make an immense difference for the cranes. Our thanks to the AMS Fund, Alliant Energy Foundation, Marshall-Reynolds Foundation, Dorothy Kopmeier Vallier Foundation, and ICF members for supporting this effort. Our flyway work is conducted in collaboration with China's State Forestry Administration and the Convention on Migratory Species.

Photo by Kang Yun, Beijing Brooks Education Center

Saving the Whooping Crane, One Egg at a Time

By Mike Putnam, Curator of Birds



Photo by Stephanie Harpt

My first introduction to Whooping Cranes was to two famous birds at ICF, Tony and Tex. Tony was the last bird carrying genes of the now extirpated non-migratory population in Louisiana. His mother, Josephine, was the last breeding female from Louisiana and his father was Crip from the population that migrates between Texas and Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park. Like several of his brothers, Tony died without reproducing. Tex, of course, was the bird incorrectly imprinted on humans that George Archibald courted for several springs to bring into breeding condition. Finally, in 1982, I helped Tex's only chick, Gee Whiz, exit his egg and enter the world (photo above). Weeks later, a raccoon killed Tex.



ICF archive photo

For the next seven years, Gee Whiz was our only Whooping Crane. Then, in 1989, the Whooping Crane Recovery Team decided that the large flock at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland, would be safer from catastrophe if it was housed in more than one place. With that decision, ICF's flock jumped to 24 birds. Next, in 1990, hatching eggs were collected from the only breeding grounds at Wood Buffalo and raised in captivity to bolster the captive flocks. Through 1996 more wild eggs came to the captive centers. Some of the chicks were kept in captivity to improve the genetics of the captive flocks and others were raised for experimental release to establish a non-migratory flock in Florida. Between 1990 and 2003, ICF's

population hovered between 27 and 32 birds. In this new millennium, ICF's Whooping Crane production has stepped up considerably (see Table 1). While the number of females laying eggs has inched upward this does not reflect the real strides we are making. For example, between 2000 and 2006, five females produced chicks for the first time. In addition, the average number of eggs laid by each female increased from 3.7 to 5.2. More importantly, the birds we started to breed have a higher genetic value than the birds we were breeding in the nineties. As a result, we are producing chicks from under-represented genetic lines, and they are improving the genetic health of the captive flock. With the increases in production our captive flock grew to between 35 and 39 birds in recent years. Last year, seven of these genetic holdbacks were transferred to other institutions to join potential mates.

The increase in production is the result of two features. First, the birds hatched in the 1990s came of breeding age. Secondly, we have figured out the peculiarities of breeding some of these birds. For example, the ICF female, O'Malley, started laying eggs in 1998 and by 2001 had laid 10 eggs. The pair broke eight of them; the two intact eggs were infertile. Then in 2002, O'Malley laid nine eggs and we recovered the first six eggs before the pair broke them. When the first five eggs proved infertile, we started artificial insemination on her now knowing that she and her male weren't mating properly. The next three eggs were fertile and her first chick was hatched and raised that year. Subsequently, we produced enough offspring from O'Malley for the captive flock that we diverted all of her chicks toward release efforts in 2006. All of today's Whooping Cranes descend from the Aransas/Wood Buffalo population that reached an all time low of 16 birds in 1940/41. Consequently, we work closely with the geneticist Dr. Ken Jones and the other breeding centers to

Table 1. WHOOPING CRANE PRODUCTION AT ICF 2000 TO 2006

| Year | Laying Females | Eggs Laid | Fertile Eggs | Eggs Hatched |
|------|----------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| 2000 | 7 | 26 | 11 | 5 |
| 2001 | 5 | 21 | 6 | 4 |
| 2002 | 7 | 33 | 16 | 13 |
| 2003 | 8 | 37 | 17 | 14 |
| 2004 | 8 | 40 | 21 | 11 |
| 2005 | 8 | 41 | 30 | 21 |
| 2006 | 9 | 47 | 26 | 15 |

manage the genetics of the captive and reintroduced flocks. To this end, we convened a workshop on Whooping Crane genetics in 2002. With the increase in the breeding of under-represented family lines at ICF and other breeding centers, another workshop was needed this past fall. At the workshops we review the genetic state of the captive flock and reintroduced populations, which are now produced only by releases from the captive flock. In order to equalize the contributions of each family line, we select the best pairings of birds to breed from each year. Some of these pairings come about by changing mates. Often, the best pairings result from changing which males breed with which females via artificial insemination.



2006 DAR chicks, ICF photo

Our efforts to test whether captive-bred cranes can be released to create self-sustaining populations started in 1992 when we, along with other breeding centers, raised birds for release into the non-migratory flock in Florida. Between then and 2004, ICF raised 85 birds for these releases. Early releases incurred high mortality, often due to predation. The breeding centers added ponds to their rearing pens to encourage the release candidates to roost in water. This measure resulted in improved survivorship of the newly

released birds. Still, mortality exceeded reproduction in this population and releases were suspended in 2005.

Overlapping the end of releases into the non-migratory population was a new effort to establish an eastern migratory population that breeds in Wisconsin and winters in Florida. This effort by the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership started in 2001 when seven Whooping Cranes led by ultralight aircraft arrived at the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf Coast. These releases have continued through 2006; 89 birds have completed migration to Florida behind ultralight aircraft. ICF contributed 12 chicks to that total. Three of those chicks are from ICF's O'Malley.

ICF and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service are collaborating on the next phase of releases into the eastern migratory population via the Direct Autumn Release (DAR) method. This effort began with the opening of our new Felburn – Leidigh Chick Rearing Facility. Whooping Crane chicks spend the first month or so of their lives in the chick rearing facility, with much time exercising outdoors with costumed aviculturists and in view of a live Whooping Crane. Then, the chicks are transferred to the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in central Wisconsin

along with their costumed caretakers. From July until early November, the chicks and caretakers spend many hours foraging in Necedah's marshes. Finally, the chicks are taken as individuals or pairs and released near older Whooping Cranes who already learned the migration route by following ultralight planes. These older birds are intended as guides for the DAR chicks. Five chicks released in 2004 and 2005 by this method flew south and then returned northward on their own. Four more migrated south in 2006, and we plan additional releases this year and beyond. An advantage of this method, besides reduced cost, is that genetically important birds can be released into the population even after the ultralight-led migrations cease.

Finally, we have worked to improve the genetics of the eastern migratory population. In the early stages of this experiment only chicks from family lines that were over-represented in the captive flock were released. Not knowing whether the ultralight migration method would work for Whooping Cranes, the prudent decision was made to keep the valuable young of under-represented lines in captivity. As a result, by the end of 2005, 45% of birds in the released population descended from a single grandfather and 65% descended from a single grandmother. ICF worked with Dr. Jones, the other breeding centers and other partners to redress this problem. Last year, a number of steps were taken to better balance the genetic representation of the eastern migratory population. Most importantly, we decided that half of the offspring normally kept for the captive flock from under-represented lines could be released. As a result, chicks from six additional females and six more males were put into the project last year.

This article provides only a snapshot of the many efforts of ICF, and especially the Crane Conservation Department, to help move the Whooping Crane further from the brink of extinction. The weekly results of breeding ICF's Whooping Cranes can be followed on our website with updates starting in April. Visit www.savingcranes.org and click on "What's New".



Mead Witter Foundation Establishes China Endowment Fund

At the end of 2006, Mead Witter Foundation of Wisconsin Rapids made a grant of \$155,000 to establish the Mead Witter China Endowment Fund. The fund will support ICF's work in China, which, as home to eight species of cranes, boasts more than any other country in the world.

ICF was one of the first conservation organizations to work in China, beginning in 1979. Our diverse activities have included using satellites to better understand bird migrations and working with local communities in places such as Cao Hai in Guizhou Province to address issues of poverty and wetland protection.

Current projects include restoring water flows to some of the vast wetlands of northeast China and coordinating parallel education programs in China and the United States to teach children about cranes, our respective cultures, and the importance of land and water conservation. The new endowment provides important support to sustain ICF's commitment and effectiveness in a country that is vitally important for cranes.

The Mead Witter Foundation has also been a major supporter of the reintroduction of Whooping Cranes into eastern North America. We are very grateful for the Foundation's continued generosity and concern for cranes and their habitats worldwide. *Photo by Mr. Crane Wu*

Lufthansa German Airlines

Committed to Crane Conservation

Lufthansa German Airlines has been one of the International Crane Foundation's longest running supporters and a wonderful friend to cranes throughout the world. For decades, Lufthansa has been donating flights to assist our work.

In May of 1983, Lufthansa flew Siberian Crane eggs laid by captive cranes in Baraboo to the Soviet Union, 9,000 miles away. ICF Co-founder George Archibald accompanied the eggs, in the earliest of experiments to return captive-produced Siberian Cranes to the wild.

Lufthansa support has also helped create the Crane Information Center in the village of Gross Mohrdorf in northeastern Germany, provided countless flights to international colleagues, and made possible the beautiful English edition of Carl-Albrecht von Treuenfels' *The Magic of Cranes*, available on our website at www.craneshop.org

In late 2006, Lufthansa extended a generous commitment to ICF to continue donating flights over the next three years. With more than 180 destinations around the world, Lufthansa's gift will provide essential support to ICF's global conservation programs. We are deeply grateful for Lufthansa's continued generosity.



Whooping Crane Supporters

Our deep thanks to those who have supported our Whooping Crane activities in 2006:

Walter Alexander Foundation, Helen Brach Foundation, Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund, Felburn Foundation, SC Johnson Fund, Inc., Charlotte and Walter Kohler Charitable Trust, Marshall-Reynolds Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, customers of Orvis Company, Inc., Panaphil Foundation, Sand County Foundation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Margaret Van Alstyne, Wolf Creek Charitable Trust, and ICF members.

Changes to the Annual Report and Contributions List

In an effort to offer greater circulation of our annual report, we've decided to include it in the summer edition of *The ICF Bugle*. At that time, we will also publish a list of all ICF donors who contribute \$500 or more in support of our conservation work.



Donors Choose Crane Conservation as Legacy

Generous gifts were recently received from the estates of ICF supporters Ms. Linda Crane, Ms. Frances Cumbee, and Ms. Maxine Goold. These meaningful gifts will build ICF's program endowment to ensure that crane conservation continues for generations to come. We are deeply grateful for the special legacy left by these caring individuals. If you would like to know more about including ICF in your estate plans, and joining others in the Crane Heritage Society, please contact David Koehler, Director of Development, at 608-356-9462 ext. 140 or dkoehler@savingcranes.org. *Photo of Demoiselle Crane chick by Tatiana Zhuchkova*

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 Kate at kate@savingcranes.org or P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI 53913

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..... | \$25 |
| Individual..... | \$35 |
| Family..... | \$50 |
| Associate..... | \$100 |
| Sustaining..... | \$250 |
| Sponsor..... | \$500 |
| Patron..... | \$1,000 |
| Benefactor..... | \$2,000 |



Photo of Wattled Cranes on the Kafue Flats, Zambia by Ian Corbett

ICF's Passion, Dedication and Hard Work Recognized

ICF Employee Awarded EWT Conservation Achiever of the Year

Kerryn Morrison, Manager of the African Cranes, Wetlands and Communities Program (ACWAC) is the winner of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Conservation Achiever of the Year. This award is the highest accolade awarded to EWT staff and projects which achieve the best results and meet the very high standards set by the Trust for conservation excellence.

In the past year, Kerryn has developed ACWAC into a program of which the EWT and ICF can be proud and which is now poised to do great things for conservation throughout the region. Kerryn has also been exceptional in her support of other Working Groups, her ability to integrate her activities with those of other colleagues, her unflinching support and loyalty to her colleagues and her strong sense of teamwork and overall dedication to the EWT.

2003 ICF Intern Awarded EWT Conservation Achiever of the Year: Runner up

In 2003, Samson Phakati, spent a season at ICF working for the Education Department. He proved to be an outstanding addition to the staff and excelled at any task he was given. ICF is proud of Samson's recent promotion as Rural Eco-warrior Coordinator and recipient of EWT's Conservation Achiever of the Year: Runner up.

In his tireless efforts to fly the Biodiversity Education flag for the EWT, Samson has responded to illegal trade in cranes, wetland clean-ups, environmental issues in the mountainous regions between Lesotho and South Africa, participated in the the Oribi PHVA and attended to daily social issues. He

has moved three times during the past six months and has had his house broken into. He hikes around for kilometers when taxis are unreliable and he puts up with ailing technology in the office. But, always, Samson Phakhathi SMILES!

Jim Harris receives Outstanding Achievement Award

Jim Harris, ICF Vice President, recently received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the International Fund for China's Environment. The award, for significant contributions to China's environmental protection and conservation, was presented to Jim and to Liang Conjie—a nationally prominent Chinese conservationist and founder of Friends of Nature.



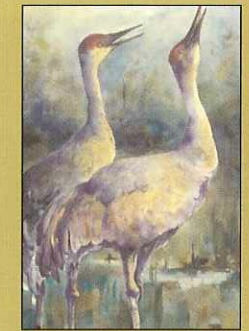
ICF Inducted into the Charity Hall of Fame

ICF has been placed in Charity Navigator's Hall of Fame! Ten exceptional charities, representing the best of the best have qualified for the Charity Hall of Fame. Each organization has never earned a rating less than 4-stars. Currently, each has a 4-star rating for both organizational efficiency and organizational capacity. All ten implement donor privacy policies which prevent them from ever selling, trading or sharing the personal information of their supporters. For more Charity Hall of Fame information visit www.charitynavigator.org

To read more about EWT and these awards visit www.savingcranes.org and click on What's New.

Check out our Clearance Sale at:

www.craneshop.org



Art poster by Janet Flynn *Mating Season* on sale for \$17.99 (reg. \$25.)

Donate Library Books to ICF at Amazon.com!

The Ron Sauey Memorial Library has a [Wish List](#) on Amazon.com. If you are interested in purchasing books for our library, simply log on to www.cranelibrary.org and click on the Amazon Wish List icon  in the center of the page. Our list is also searchable on Amazon.com as "ICF Library."

There will always be a selection of titles listed in a range of prices. New or used books are welcome. Most of the listed books have been requested by staff or researchers to help them in their conservation work. Purchases will be shipped directly to ICF by Amazon.com along with an optional acknowledgement from the donor. Questions can be directed to library@savingcranes.org. Thank You!

ICF Wish List

The ICF Field Ecology Department needs a very reliable vehicle to use for Sandhill Crane research over the next four years. Please contact Anne Lacy at 608-356-9462 ext. 146 if you can help.

The following criteria are very desirable:

- Model year 2000 or newer passenger van, SUV or compact extended cab pick-up truck
- Automatic transmission
- Less than 75,000 original miles
- Minimum fuel economy of 23-25 mpg (average)
- Any color but red (to reduce crane/vehicle territorial disputes!)

Bird-a-thon 2007—Support ICF! Sponsor a Birder or Count Species

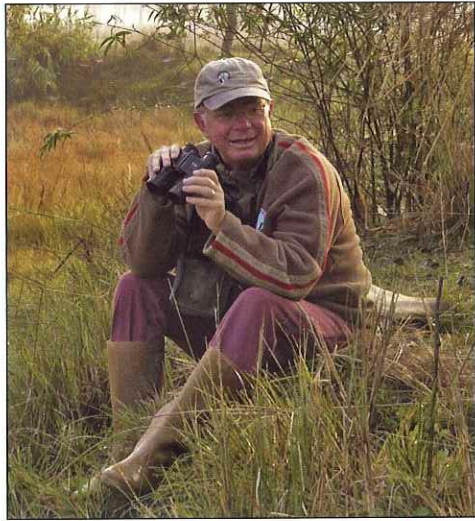


Photo of George birding in Nepal by Gopi Sundar

ICF is pleased to announce the 2007 Bird-a-thon! Each spring, novice and expert birders collect pledges and take to the field for a single day of birding (identifying bird species) while earning money for conservation. Another option is for ICF members to sponsor the Bird-a-thon of the ICF Craniac Team, which this year is composed of George

Archibald, ICF Co-founder, Jim Hook, ICF President, Jim Harris, ICF Vice President, and a small group of friends.

Since 1989, the Bird-a-thon has raised over \$442,000 to support ICF's diverse conservation programs and to help assemble the important collection of books, journals, and research papers found at the Ron Sauey Library on ICF's campus. Bird-a-thons are also one of ICF's best ways to grow our support base. Each sponsor of \$25 or more receives a one year membership to ICF. Each new member represents one more individual, or household, aware of ICF's mission and making a difference to protect cranes and their habitats worldwide.

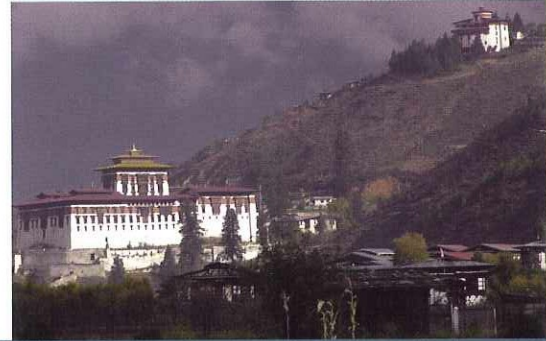
Please become involved in this year's Bird-a-thon by using the envelope in the center of this *ICF Bugle* to pledge an amount for ICF's Craniac Team or to request a packet to conduct your own Bird-a-thon. This year's grand prize for the most support raised is a pair of Eagle Optics Vortex Razor binoculars valued at over \$800. We are grateful for Eagle Optics' continued support of ICF and the Bird-a-thon.

Travel with George

An expedition to Bhutan:

November 3 – 20, 2007

High in the mysterious and majestic eastern Himalayas, nestled between Tibet and India, lies the small Kingdom of Bhutan, known as one of the Earth's last precious unspoiled spots. This expedition offers a balanced taste of Bhutan's culture and natural history. Our professional guide, Jigme Goenpo Dorji, will share the customs and the traditions of his people. ICF Co-founder George Archibald, a renowned naturalist, will immerse you in the world of cranes and the cloud kingdom. For more information about this once-in-a-lifetime travel opportunity, please contact Julie Zajicek at 608-356-9462 ext. 156 or email: julie@savingcranes.org



International Crane Foundation

E11376 Shady Lane Rd.
P.O. Box 447
Baraboo, WI 53913-0447
www.savingcranes.org

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage

PAID

LaCrosse, WI
Permit No. 25

Address Service Requested

♻️ Printed on 100% Recycled Paper with Soy Ink.