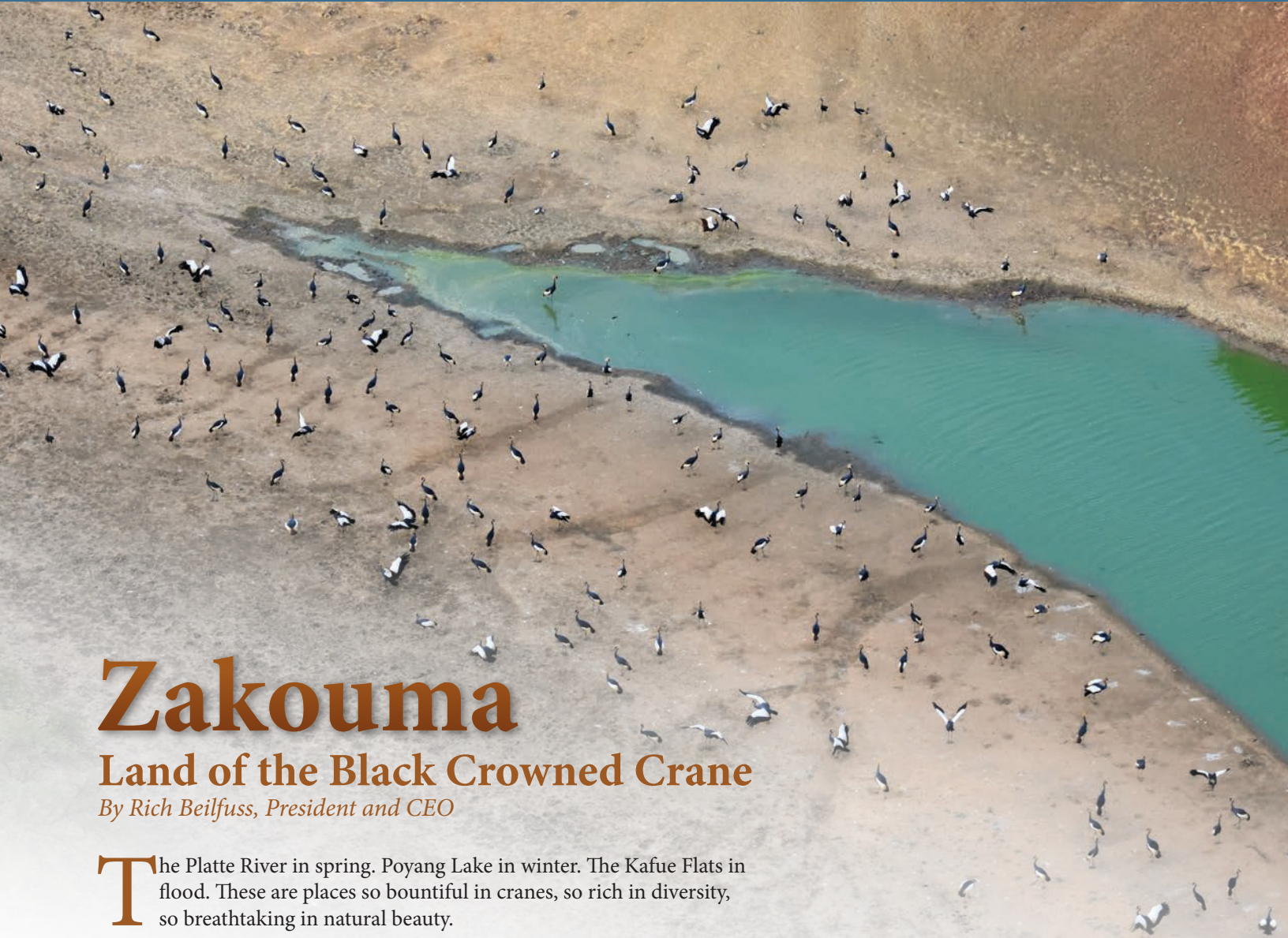


The Bugle

Saving cranes and the places where cranes dance!

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Zakouma Land of the Black Crowned Crane

By Rich Beilfuss, President and CEO

The Platte River in spring. Poyang Lake in winter. The Kafue Flats in flood. These are places so bountiful in cranes, so rich in diversity, so breathtaking in natural beauty.

Zakouma National Park in Chad is such a place.

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What we found exceeded our wildest expectations! Zakouma is one of the most important crane areas in the world and gives renewed hope for this globally *Vulnerable* species.

Photos by Rich Beilfuss and Tom Leiden





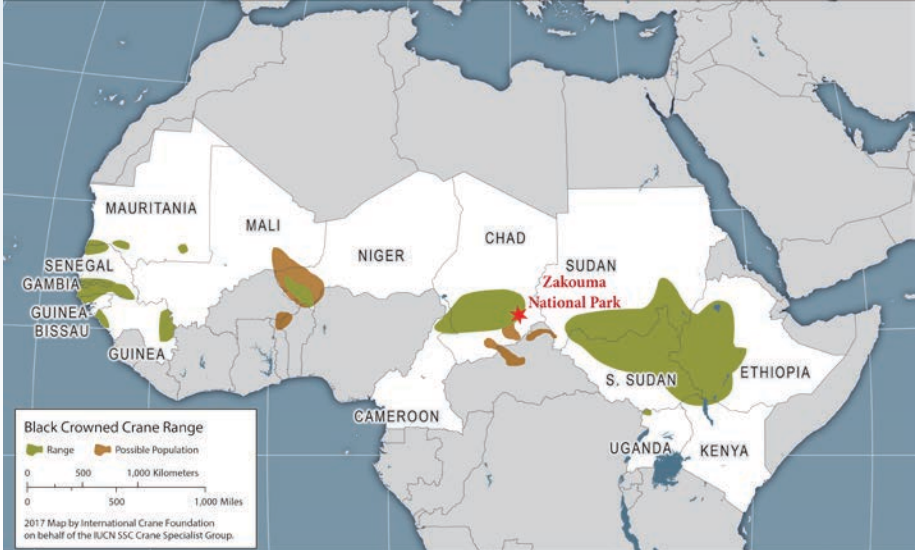
This spring, I had the pleasure of traveling to the wilds of Zakouma and counting the highest number of cranes ever recorded from the ground, anywhere in Africa, for any species—13,885 Black Crowned Cranes! Together with our African Program leader Kerry Morrison and supporters Tom and Kathy Leiden, we went to Zakouma with high hopes. Although Black Crowned Cranes have disappeared from many West African countries across their range over the past half-century, including Nigeria and Mali where they once numbered in the tens of thousands, recent reports from Chad were encouraging. What we found exceeded our wildest expectations. Zakouma is one of the most important crane areas in the world and gives renewed hope for this globally *Vulnerable* species.



Zakouma: law enforcement, ecological health, wildlife conservation, community development, local economic growth, and park management and infrastructure. The results are impressive. Elephant poaching is reduced from about 1,000 per year to none at present. Buffalo, roan, tiang, hartebeest, kob, waterbuck, and many other antelope species roam throughout the park, tracked by healthy populations of lion, leopard, and hyena. The grazing and trampling activity of these large herbivore herds creates the ecological conditions that cranes (and many other wildlife species) need. Zakouma supports among the highest density of waterbirds I have ever seen, anywhere—hundreds of thousands of spur-winged geese, white-faced ducks, knob-billed geese, large breeding populations of five species of storks, and abundant herons, egrets, spoonbills, and many others.

We observed many of the cranes in family groups—strong evidence that the population is breeding locally, rather than refugees from strife in neighboring South Sudan, Cameroon, or Nigeria. By day, the cranes concentrate with thousands of other waterbirds in the shallow flooded wetlands that supply a lifeline of dry season water in this parched region. At night, we watched them form large congregations to roost on open fields and adjacent Acacia trees.

The most exciting news is perhaps not the discovery of so many cranes, but the realization that the cranes are in such good (conservation) hands. African Parks is doing an excellent job managing the park and its surroundings in cooperation with the government of Chad. Over the past decade, African Parks has focused on the core needs of



African Parks' mandate to secure Zakouma includes engaging with the communities that live around the park and depend on wetlands for their livelihoods. One of our most interesting days at Zakouma was spent just outside the park in a large wetland inhabited by seasonal Arabic-speaking nomads who migrate regionally with the rains and floodwaters. This communal wetland was full of camels, cattle, goats, and their herders and fishers, yet supported 2,200 Black Crowned Cranes and tens of thousands of waterbirds. Villages constructed entirely of marsh reeds lined the wetland periphery. Under the shade of a large Acacia, children did math problems on large whiteboards leaned against the tree.

Several organizations in Africa have committed to protected area co-management with national governments and local communities—one of the most significant developments in the conservation world over the past two decades. While debates have raged over whether “fences and fines” or “people in parks” leads to the best conservation impact, in the long run, the truth is that both are essential.



In the coming year, we, too, will make a major new commitment to the future of another impressive African conservation landscape: the Kafue Flats and its two national parks. In partnership with the Government of Zambia and the six chieftaincies that surround the flats, our goal is to demonstrate how a “working wetland” can support rich biodiversity (including a third of the world’s Wattled Cranes), local livelihoods, and economic growth. Elsewhere, we are supporting vital protected areas in many countries across Asia and Africa, and in a wealth of U.S. National Wildlife Refuges that sustain Whooping Cranes and Sandhill Cranes here in the U.S.

Next steps at Zakouma? The greatest threat to the Black Crowned Cranes in this region is the looming impact of global warming on its precious waters and wetlands. We will do a wet season aerial survey of nesting sites to understand the wetland conditions where the birds are breeding, and we will put satellite trackers on several cranes during the next dry season to look at their seasonal movements and use of habitats outside the park.

I am grateful to African Parks for providing so much logistical support and encouragement for our Zakouma expedition and to the Leiden Conservation Foundation for their support of this trip and our work in Africa and beyond.



Third Time's a Charm

By Hillary Thompson, Crane Analyst

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. This was the case recently for a tenacious pair of reintroduced Whooping Cranes. For the second time in the history of the reintroduced population in Wisconsin, a breeding pair made three nesting attempts in one season. Unfortunately, we were forced to intervene and collect the eggs from Male 9-05 and Female 13-03's first nest before an imminent hatch of black flies. Voracious black flies often drive parents from the nest, and the eggs are too valuable to risk losing. Field staff brought the eggs to our incubation facility. One egg did not survive. The other egg hatched in early June under a captive pair of Whooping Cranes and will eventually be reintroduced into the wild this fall. The second nest failed for unknown reasons.

Luckily, their third attempt was successful, and we were thrilled when out hatched the youngest chick of the year, W19-19, as seen in this nestcam photo.

The pair have nested together for nine seasons, and W19-19 is the ninth chick they have hatched in the wild. They are two of the more experienced parents in the population when it comes to raising chicks. W19-19 is still learning its way around the marsh, but we are hopeful this family will take flight and migrate south together come winter.



Four Festival Days Celebrating Colorado's Magnificent Sandhill Cranes!

Yampa Valley Crane Festival
Aug. 29 through Sept. 1, 2019
Steamboat Springs and Hayden, Colorado



This family-friendly festival celebrates the majestic Sandhill Cranes as they migrate through the Yampa Valley with guided crane viewings, expert speakers, films, bird and nature walks in some of the valley's most magnificent settings, workshops, live raptors, birding by pontoon boat at Steamboat Lake, and so much more. This year, the festival's keynote speaker is our very own, Kerryn Morrison, Manager of our African Crane Conservation Program based at the Endangered Wildlife Trust in South Africa.

Visit www.coloradocranes.org for a detailed schedule and to register.



The Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report



Photo by Ted Thousand

We are pleased to announce our 2019 Annual Report. We hope you will enjoy the collection of highlights showcasing our conservation impact around the world. With eleven crane species facing extinction, the challenge ahead of us is global in scale and urgent in need. We are committed to making steady and measurable progress on that tall order through the wise use of our resources. We are diligent with your investment and Charity Navigator, the leading independent charity watchdog, agrees by consistently awarding us their highest rating. We will continue to operate at the highest standard, so we can make the greatest difference for cranes and the places where cranes dance. Thank you for your support.

The annual report will be available to download later this month on our website at www.savingcranes.org/annual-report.

Renovation Excitement

Nearly every inch of our exhibit renovation is buzzing with activity as walls are being built, concrete is being poured, and earth is being contoured for crane ponds and beautiful rolling prairie plantings.

The George Archibald Welcome Center, now with a new roof, will include an indoor viewing window into our Sandhill Crane exhibit. Lots of fun and engaging interpretation is underway for our new welcome center, along with a theater, and a world-class gift shop.



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The Bugle is the quarterly newsletter of the International Crane Foundation. ICF was founded in 1973 by Ronald Sauey, Ph.D. (1948 - 1987) and George Archibald, Ph.D.

Editor: Betsy Didrickson
 Bugle comments or questions? Please write Betsy at Bugle@savingcranes.org or P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI 53913
 To become a sponsor of this publication, please contact the editor.
 Memberships make our work possible. Please join or give a gift membership at the following annual rates:

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Cranemaker	\$10,000

Oh, What a Night!

Thank you for attending our biggest party and fundraiser of the year – *An Evening with the Construction Cranes*. It was a wonderful evening with friends – old and new. We are grateful to our event sponsors for helping us showcase our exciting construction project that is still underway. This sneak peek was a precursor to the debut of our new exhibits and the unveiling of the George Archibald Welcome Center next spring.



Photos by Deb Johnson



Many thanks to our lead \$10,000 sponsors Tom and Kathy Leiden, an anonymous donor, and \$5,000 sponsors Vogel Bros. Construction and Scooter Software.



Stay tuned for information about grand re-opening activities in 2020!

Dancing Whooping Crane T-Shirt!

Designed just for you, this majestic crane stands 20 inches tall with our logo lower right. Super soft 100% ring-spun cotton. Available in rust, pebble brown, or teal. Sizes S to XXL. \$19.95

To order, visit www.craneshop.org or call 608-356-9462 ext. 171.



Like what you read in *The Bugle*? It all happens because of **YOU**. Your support gives us the flexibility to respond to emerging threats for cranes around the globe. Thank you. Help keep our important work going by giving your next gift today!

Help us reach our goal of adding 50 more Frequent Flyers this summer!



Monthly donors make such a big difference. By making an automatic gift each month, you can ensure you are consistently growing our far-reaching efforts to save cranes and the threatened places they call home – every day of the year!

We accept two types of recurring gifts: **Credit/Debit Card** and **Direct Withdrawal** from your bank account. Charging your monthly gifts to your credit or debit card – a one-time set-up – saves you time and postage. It's an easy and convenient way to make a big impact. Your card will be automatically charged each month, and of course, you can change or cancel your gift at any time. Simply decide on a monthly amount and choose a payment method, and we'll take care of the rest!

And, as a Frequent Flyer, your membership will automatically renew each year. A new membership card will be sent to you each January, along with your yearly giving statement for tax purposes. As a Frequent Flyer, you will receive all the benefits that membership offers.

There is no easier way to let your love for cranes soar than to become a Frequent Flyer!

To sign up: Complete your information on the enclosed envelope. Be sure to include a voided check if signing up for Direct Withdrawal. Or visit www.savingcranes.org/monthly-giving Or call 608-356-9462 ext. 807 for assistance.

The International Crane Foundation is a qualified 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization, and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Do you love cranes?
 Are you at least 70½?
 Do you have an IRA?**

If you answered "Yes" to these questions, you can take advantage of a win-win opportunity to help cranes and also receive a tax benefit. Current tax law allows you to make qualified charitable distributions from your IRA that are not subject to federal income tax if you are 70½ years of age or older. You can choose to direct an amount up to \$100,000 per year to the International Crane Foundation. Doing so lowers your taxable income, thus saving on your overall tax burden. This is a great option for managing the tax burden from Required Minimum Distributions. Please speak with your tax advisor or your IRA plan administrator to determine what is best for your situation. **Distributions must be sent directly to the International Crane Foundation, Federal Tax Identification Number 39-1187711.** For more information, contact Chuck Gibbons at 608-356-9462, ext. 104 or email cgibbons@savingcranes.org. The cranes thank you, and we do too!



Photos by Tom Lynn



International Crane Foundation

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

Address Service Requested

Member Appreciation Day

Saturday, September 21, 2019

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

International Crane Foundation
Headquarters in Baraboo, Wisconsin

Mark your calendar for our annual Member Appreciation Day! Arrive early and sign up for behind-the-scenes tours of Crane City, our breeding facility. Tours are first-come, first-served the day of the event. Also available this year are behind-the-scenes sneak peeks of our site renovation. Other special activities include a guided prairie walk on our restored prairie, radio tracking demonstrations, a photo opportunity with Hope, our Whooping Crane mascot, and talks by our expert staff!

Not a member? Join the flock today by visiting www.savingcranes.org/membership or call 608-356-9462 ext. 807, or email membership@savingcranes.org. Memberships may also be purchased or renewed at the Visitor Center the day of the event.

Memberships are vital to support our conservation work. Thank you!

YOU'RE INVITED!



Photo by Deb Johnson

Visit our website as Member Appreciation Day approaches for a detailed timeline of events!