



THE BROLGA BUGLE

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INTERNATIONAL CRANE
FOUNDATION
City View Road
Baraboo, WI 53913, USA

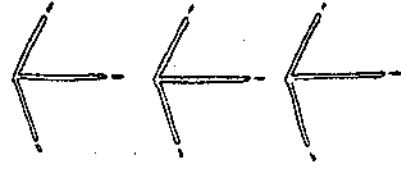
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International Crane Foundation Quarterly Newsletter

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MAKING TRACKS - news of the foundation



- JANUARY**
- 16 Veterinarian Dr. Marge Losch repairs injured beak of White-naped Crane with hoof repair fiberglass.
 - 17 ICF signs contract with film production company, Metabasis, for one hour television special for Public Broadcasting Company.
 - 20 Egg transport box for 12 Black-necked Crane eggs sent to Washington for hand delivery by US officials from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Fish and Wildlife Service to counterpart officials in the Environment Protection Office, Beijing (Peking), China.
 - 22 Ornithologist and conservationist, Dr. Paul Spitzer, reports only 33 Siberian Cranes wintering at the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, India, decreased from 42 in 1978-79 and 56 in 1976-77.

- FEBRUARY**
- 6 Dr. Roderick Drewien, crane researcher and conservationist, visits ICF. Rod conceived and is implementing the Whooping Crane foster-parent project in Idaho.
 - 7 ICF survey near Panmunjom on the Korean DMZ indicates no Japanese Crested Ibis (1974 - 4 birds, 1978 - 2 birds, 1979 - 1 bird) and perhaps 40 Red-crowned Cranes.
 - 11 Artificial insemination begins for the 1980 breeding season at ICF.
 - 21 ICF'ers George Archibald, Yumi Goto and Kyoko Matsumoto attend the IWRB's crane symposium in Sapporo, Japan and meet crane colleagues from China, Holland, India, Japan, South Korea, and the USA.

(continued on page 3)

The International Crane Foundation is a registered, publicly-supported, non-profit organization which is dedicated to the study and conservation of cranes throughout the world. Saving cranes saves earth's vanishing wetlands.



Trust between man and crane is beautifully illustrated at the Zha Lung Natural Reserve, China.

CHINA'S CRANE RESERVE

By
ICF Researcher, Kyoko Matsumoto

In February, I attended the Crane Symposium convened in Sapporo, Japan as part of the 28th Annual Executive Board Meeting of the International Waterfowl Research Bureau (IWRB). I was delighted to hear a presentation on cranes in China by the country's foremost ornithologist, Dr. Tso-Hsin Cheng of the Beijing Institute of Zoology.

Dr. Cheng informed us that the Chinese consider a "Natural Reserve" a protected area that encompasses an entire ecosystem. For the cranes that means the conservation of great expanses of wetlands. When Dr. Cheng left China to attend the meeting in Japan there were 55 Natural Reserves but most of them were for mammals and not specifically for birds. He projects that by the end of the year, 20 more Reserves will be established. The existing protected areas encompass 1.5 million hectares, thus occupying about 1.4% of China's total area.

The Zha Lung Natural Reserve was established in 1979 for the treasured Red-crowned Cranes, formerly known as Manchurian, Japanese or Sacred Cranes. The protected wetland covers some 30,000 hectares, and although only 25 kilometers from the big city, Chichihar in northeast China, the Reserve can only be approached by wagon and then by boat. The nesting area for about 110 cranes is secure. Since 1975 Professor Guo-En Ma of Harbin Normal University has been studying the cranes and undoubtedly his findings were instrumental in having the region set aside as a Reserve. By line transects Professor Ma has

located the crane nests in spring, data from which he calculated that each pair defends a breeding territory ranging in size from 45 to 135 hectares.

In 1979 Chinese researchers decided to establish a semi-domestic flock of cranes at Zha Lung by capturing flightless cranes that were moulting and pre-fledged chicks from nearby, smaller wetlands. Two adults, a pair of subadults, and 24 pre-fledged chicks were run down on foot by farmers, captured by hand, then transported to the Reserve. They were fed fish and became very tame. Eventually the captured cranes were allowed to fly free, but surprisingly they did not leave their new human companions. Rather than migrate south when the cold winds blew in from the north in early November, the semi-wild cranes remained at the Reserve all winter, receiving both protection and food from man. Perhaps a nonmigratory crane population will be established in China if winter feeding programs are continued just as has been the case in northeastern Hokkaido for the same species.

(continued on page 2)

Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*)

The Black-necked crane is the least known of the 15 species of cranes in the world, a very limited number of which are today found in the Ladakh region, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. Any sightings of this rare bird may please be reported to the World Wildlife Fund-India, P. O. Box 1381, Bombay 400 001, and also to the address given below.

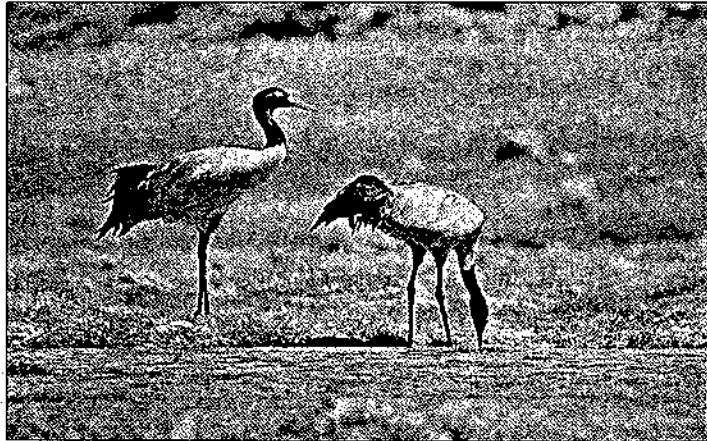
तिब्बती सारस

दुनिया की १५ जातियों के सारसों में से तिब्बती सारस के बारे में बहुत ही सीमित जानकारी प्राप्त है। यह सारस बहुत कम मात्रा में लद्दाख, भूटान और अरुणाचल प्रदेश में पाये जाते हैं। यदि आप को यह पक्षी कहीं दिखाई दे तो इसकी पूरी जानकारी बर्ड्स वाइल्डलाइफ फंड-भारत, पोस्ट बॉक्स १३८१, बम्बई ४०० ००१ और नीचे दिए गए पते पर भेजने का कष्ट करें।

ترنگ سرنگ

اس دنیا میں سارسوں کی ۱۵ جنسوں میں سے ایک ہے ترنگ سرنگ۔ جس کے بارے میں بہت کم معلومات حاصل ہیں۔ یہ پرندے بہت کم تعداد میں لداخ اور آڑھن پرندہ ہیں۔ جانتے ہیں۔ اگر آپ کو یہ پرندہ دکھائی دے تو فوراً ہی اس کے بارے میں ڈیڑھ دو لاکھ لافٹ سٹڈیو پوسٹ بکس نمبر ۱۳۸۱، بمبئی ۴۰۰ ۰۰۱ اور نیچے دیئے گئے پتے پر اطلاع دیں۔

Photograph: P. Gole / WWF-India



Two sides of the card published by the World Wildlife Fund - India to promote conservation of the Black-necked Crane in Ladakh (English, Hindi, and Urdu languages).

PUBLICIZED CRANES

Public education is a fundamental component of any successful grass roots conservation program, a value embraced by ICF research collaborators Lavkumar Khacher and Prakash Gole in India and Karen Madsen in the Philippines in their respective conservation programs for the Black-necked Crane and the Eastern Sarus Crane.

Possibly only two or three pairs of Black-necked Cranes inhabit Kashmir's eastern province, Ladakh. This region, although politically Indian, is physiographically Tibetan, lying as it does along the western border of China. The local people in Ladakh are devout Buddhists and they protect the cranes and all other animals. The Indian army, however, has been well represented in the region in recent years and some of the soldiers have admitted shooting cranes!

As a consequence of pioneering ornithological research in Ladakh in 1976 and 1978 by Dr. Salim Ali and his co-workers, Mr. Khacher and Mr. Gole, the World Wildlife Fund - India published a post card size color photo of the Black-necked Crane with a conservation message in three languages on the reverse side of the card. 300 copies were distributed to military and civilian personnel in Ladakh in 1979.

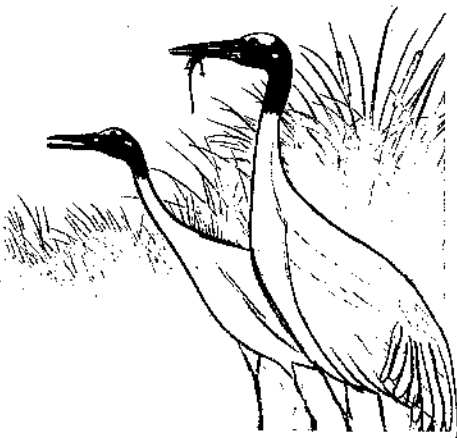
To further protect the cranes in Ladakh, the Indian conservationists have changed its name from Black-necked Crane to "Tibetan Sarus." The Indian Sarus, *Grus antigone*, is the world's tallest crane, and although it breeds in heavily populated areas of India the cranes thrive because they are protected by the Hindu faith as symbols of good fortune. With a name switch to "Sarus" the Hindu soldiers in Ladakh may protect these alpine cranes as they would the Indian Sarus.

This January, ICF Life Member Danny Weaver donated 400 8x10" color prints of Black-necked Cranes (Tibetan Sarus) to ICF which we in turn delivered to Prakash Gole during the Crane Symposium in Japan in February. World Wildlife Fund - India is using the prints in conservation posters. The posters will be displayed in offices of military personnel and in civilian centers in Ladakh to better insure the survival of the cranes.

Concurrently, 2800 miles east of Ladakh on the Philippine's most northern island, Luzon, Peace Corps Volunteer Karen Madsen is trying to find the Eastern Sarus, a bird that is smaller and darker than its cousin, the Indian Sarus, and is believed to be extirpated from most if not all of its former range in Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and the Philippines. With financial backing from the Delaware Museum of Natural History and in collaboration with the Philippine Government, Karen has bussed to the remote corners of Luzon hoping to find cranes. In the Cauayan valley of northeast Luzon, local people claimed the Sarus were abundant in the 1940's and were still regularly seen in the 1960's. In the subsequent decade the birds quickly declined as the wetlands were converted to rice fields and as settlers shot wildlife for food. In the early 70's there were only

two reported sightings, but one Eastern Sarus crane pair was regularly sighted last year flying over Tabuk. Karen's efforts to locate that pair failed. Perhaps they too were shot.

Nonetheless, hope remains for the Eastern Sarus in the Philippines and Karen has made posters advertising ICF's interest in finding and protecting the cranes below. Publicity may be responsible for finding a few survivors.



MANGEN ITI CHINGUNA ICI NAKABEROK WENNO NAKAITEI TET JENAG MAFRAN ICI AYAN WENNO NAKAKAITEI DEKOTI OGA BILLIEI AGAYAN ICI (TIPOT). DINGGIDIAN ICI INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION, AMERICAYON ICI UNYI AGUBUKIK (RESERACH) DEPTA OGA BILLIEI. DAYIA NGA BILLIEI KEE KALANGKANGA ICI KANAWAY NGA MODOKOTI PUY DAYTA OGA BILLIEI NGA TIPOT. NAKABAGA ICI UNO NA KAN AWAYAN PUNAY NGA BAGI. NAWAYAN NGA AGGIDIAN DIDAY PIRIK WENNO KATAKALANN. AGAYAT WENNO AGTELEGRAMA KAYO KEE ILAGAYO ICI OKRAKTO NGA AYANA, KEN MAMO ICI NAKATEYO NGA TIPOT, ANTE OGA ORES KEN MO UNIA ICI ARAMZIDEN DA. TI PEGURATAN YO KEE NI.

Karen X. Madsen (USPOV)
District Habantes Office
Vigan, Ilocos Sur 0401

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

The International Crane Foundation will provide a reward for information leading to the discovery of this bird (tipot). American researchers are looking for tipot. Tipot is very tall, standing three or four feet with a red head and white-gray body. It inhabits and nests in shallow swamps and rice fields. Send a collect telegram or letter including the exact number of tipot seen, their location, time of day observed, and their activity. Karen Madsen, c/o District Fisheries Office, Vigan, Llocos Sur 0401.

CHINA'S CRANE RESERVE

(continued from page 1)

The Red-crowned Cranes breed in southeastern USSR, northeast China and northern Japan, and winter in southern China, North and South Korea, and in Japan. To promote international information exchange on these treasured cranes of the Orient, ICF provided 25 bright plastic leg bands that can be placed on the young cranes before they are capable of flight. Perhaps Zha Lung will be the best place to band cranes in China because the cranes are easy to catch and thus to mark. Answering my question regarding the onset of crane banding in China, Dr Cheng remarked, "Not this year, not next year, probably the next year!"

WATTLEDS HATCH IN JAPAN

The enormous Wattled Cranes from Africa are the slowest breeders among cranes in the wild. Whereas other species usually lay two eggs each year, the Wattled typically lay a single egg clutch, one factor considered to contribute to their extremely low reproductive rate.

Wattled Cranes are also difficult to breed in captivity. The first breeding was in 1944 at the Bronx Zoo and in subsequent years they have bred at Busch Gardens in Tampa, Florida, at Paris Zoo and at Vogel-Park Waisrode in Germany. In 1980, Tokyo's Tama Zoo proudly announced the first hatching of a Wattled Crane in Japan.

The Tama pair of Wattled Cranes is maintained in a spacious and wooded aviary shared with a mixed flock of Stanley, Demoiselle, Crowned and Common Cranes. The magnificent Wattled Cranes from the expansive wetlands of southern Africa are dominant in the flock at Tama Zoo. Perhaps in tune with an internal cycle that helps them nest at just the right time in Africa, the pair produced their first egg December 19 at the onset of winter. The egg was collected and subsequently three more eggs were produced. After 33 days of incubation both the first and second eggs hatched. The third egg did not hatch, however, and the fourth chick died a few days after hatching. Tama Zoo is now rearing two beautiful Wattled Crane chicks.

ICF wishes to congratulate Tama Zoo on breeding this endangered species. We hope our pair of Wattled Cranes, Dr. Watson and Irma, will catch up with the competition in Japan.



Wattled Crane chicks with the keepers, Mr. Suzuki (right) and Mr. Sugita.

Marked Cranes

Although aviculturists at ICF can usually recognize each of ICF's cranes, all our captive birds are marked with aluminum or green plastic leg bands manufactured by craftsman and ICF volunteer, Harold Bessac (see *The Braila Bugle*, Vol. 4, No. 1). Marking is important in captivity to monitor carefully the life history of each individual and to link each bird to ICF files. Detailed records are maintained on ownership, loan agreements, health, breeding and behavior.

Likewise, it is important to mark wild cranes if individuals are to be subsequently identified and their biology documented for science and conservation. In recent years, a flurry of research has taken place in North America in developing techniques for marking Sandhill Cranes. Neck collars, wing tags, leg bands, and micro radios have all proved effective in marking wild cranes. Sandhill Cranes captured and marked by researchers from the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point were determined to migrate in October to Jasper Pulaski State Wildlife Area in Indiana and from there to northcentral Florida. Northwest of Wisconsin in southcentral Manitoba, Canada, research by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the University of Wisconsin in Madison proved that Sandhills in that region winter along the Gulf Coast in southern Texas, while birds marked on their wintering ground in New Mexico summer in Siberia.

Because of the success in marking Sandhill Cranes, pre-ledged Whooping Cranes have likewise been captured and leg banded in recent years. Each marked Whooper can readily be identified allowing scientists insight into mortality, age of first breeding, breeding of related individuals and a variety of other information. This research provides more data on the biology of Whooping Cranes, knowledge that can help researchers and officials establish better conservation programs for a species that now numbers 119 individuals.

Since so little is known about the migration of cranes in Asia, ICF wishes to encourage a marking program for cranes. In 1976 ICF helped mark 78 Common Cranes that winter in southwest Iran. Our Soviet colleagues determined that these cranes breed in the USSR southwest of the Ural Mountains. There are plans to substitute Siberian Crane eggs into their nests to establish a new and, we hope, secure group of Siberian Cranes in west Asia. Common Cranes have also been marked on their breeding grounds in Sweden by Swedish ornithologists, proving that the Scandinavian Common Cranes do not migrate directly south, but southwest to the maritime climes of the Iberian peninsula.

In February, at the meeting of the International Waterfowl Research Bureau in Sapporo, Japan, ICF provided 75 plastic leg bands, 25 each to researchers from China, Japan and the USSR to be used in mark-

ing Red-crowned Cranes on breeding grounds in their respective countries. The Chinese were given red bands, the Japanese white bands, and the Soviets orange bands. The marked cranes will provide a vehicle for information exchange among China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea and the USSR, as marked birds are observed for many years on both their breeding and wintering grounds.

We are pleased to report that Japan has already initiated a crane marking program. An endangered Hooded Crane was captured on its wintering grounds near Arasaki in southern Kyushu and marked with a bright Bessac band. We hope this is just the beginning of intensive crane banding in Asia.

Beak Repair In Cranes

by Chris LaRue

Captive cranes occasionally suffer from injuries to their beaks generally caused by flying or running into fences when frightened. In extremely serious cases the beak may be completely broken off with little chance for repair. Recent work on herons and other long billed birds has shown some success in forming artificial beaks of plastic or fiberglass.

At ICF we have had a few successful repairs on beaks with minor injuries. These have usually been limited to injury to the hard outer layer of the beak with only slight damage to the soft inner tissue resulting in bent or crooked beaks. Two kinds of splints can be used depending on the severity and location of the injury. If the lower part of the beak is involved a wooden splint may be sutured along the side of the damaged mandible. If there is only slight injury to the upper part of the beak, the splinted lower mandible may act as a support for the upper mandible, particularly if the injury causes an abnormal downward curve. (see figure 1).

For injuries to the upper mandible producing a lateral curvature, a light weight aluminum splint may be taped on top of the beak. This cannot be used on the lower mandible because the tape would interfere with the bird's tongue. (see figure 2). If both the upper and the lower mandibles are involved in this type of injury, both kinds of splints may be needed.

A third type of beak damage is a hole or soft spot caused by mechanical injury or fungus. This damage usually results in a weakening of the beak which must be repaired before a break occurs. A fiberglass hoof repair material used on horses can be successful in treating these problems. All of these procedures are carried out under the supervision of a qualified veterinarian and should be accompanied by other medical treatments such as antibiotics or fungicides.

The single most important aspect of beak repair is to insure the bird is able and willing to eat while the injury is healing. The bird's feed should be weighed twice daily and birds not eating on their own must be force fed until they begin to eat. Within 2 - 3 weeks the beak should be healed sufficiently to remove the splint.

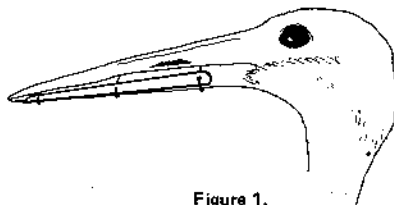


Figure 1.

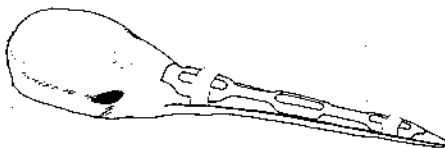


Figure 2.

New Booklet on Wisconsin Wetlands

Wetlands provide breeding habitat for most of the world's cranes including Wisconsin's own Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis*. The disappearance of these ecosystems, usually through outright destruction by man, has been the major cause for the precipitous decline of cranes in the last two centuries. The International Crane Foundation has worked to preserve wetlands throughout the world as a part of its five-part program for conserving the crane family.

Recently, two ICF regulars, James T. Harris and ICF Co-founder Ronald T. Sauvey, have written a booklet called *A GUIDE TO PROTECTING WISCONSIN WETLANDS* which describes in detail the ABCs of protecting wetlands in this state. The *GUIDE*, published jointly by the University of Wisconsin Extension and the Citizens Natural Resources Association, consists of five chapters: an *INTRODUCTION*, including a discussion of what wetlands are, their values, and priorities for protection; *REGULATION*, which enumerates federal, state, and county laws now protecting wetlands; *ACQUISITION*, listing government and non-government organizations that purchase important wetlands; *MANAGEMENT*, describing use of wetlands as a resource and government programs encouraging their conservation; and *CITIZEN ACTION SKILLS*, ways in which citizens of Wisconsin can make their opinions known on wetlands issues at the local, state, and federal levels.

The need for the *GUIDE* in Wisconsin has become apparent over the last ten years when more than a dozen wetlands protection bills have been introduced and killed in the Wisconsin Legislature. Certain powerful lobbies, particularly muck farmers' organizations, have successfully fought any systematic effort to protect this state's remaining wetlands. The *GUIDE* is an attempt to pull together all relevant information on wetland protection in lieu of a comprehensive law. There are, for example, several tough laws already on the books which protect certain types of wetlands. Furthermore, the Army Corps of Engineers recently has extended its regulatory jurisdiction over these ecosystems. The public needs to be aware of these developments, and the authors of *A GUIDE TO PROTECTING WISCONSIN WETLANDS* hope that the publication will encourage the citizens of Wisconsin to actively take part in wetlands protection.

Copies of the *GUIDE* are available to Wisconsin residents through their county Extension agents. Others can obtain the *GUIDE* from the Agricultural Bulletin Building, 1535 Observatory Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53706 for 30¢ apiece.

MAKING TRACKS

(continued from page 1)

- 27 Floodlights go on at night over ICF's Common, Hooded, Siberian and Whooping Cranes to increase their daily exposure to light and thus stimulate greater breeding activity.

MARCH

- 3 Japanese ornithologists Yoshimitzu Shigeta and Kunikazu Momose arrive to begin six months research tenure at ICF.
- 12 ICF's famous Tex, the human-imprinted Whooping Crane, appears on CBS's *REAL PEOPLE*, with additional appearances scheduled for *LIFE* and *NEWSWEEK* magazines and *THE NEW YORK TIMES* later in the spring.
- 21 Sandhill Cranes return to ICF Director Owen Gromme's marsh near Briggsville, in central Wisconsin.
- 22 Zhurka, a female Red-crowned Crane on loan from the Moscow Zoo, beats Hirakawa, a female Siberian Crane on loan from Hirakawa Zoo, by six hours in producing 1980's first egg.



Historic marking in Japan! Haruo Matano holds an immature Hooded Crane that he has just banded with a bright plastic leg band provided by ICF volunteer band-maker Harold Bessac of Dalton, Wisconsin.

—Photo by Kiyohosi Mori



Tockie and her friends at ICF.

TOCKIE, WE'LL MISS YOU

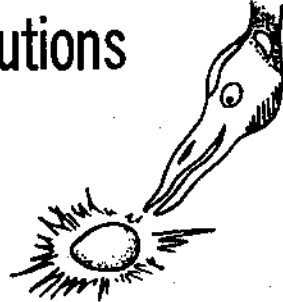
Since ICF's birth in 1973, Katharine Green, known to all her friends as "Tockie," has been an inspiration to ICF's founding staff. A gracious, loving, and intellectual lady, she supported and encouraged us when we were little more than an idea, and for many years lent her valuable skills as an assistant editor of *The Brolga Bugle*. On February 27, 1980, Tockie peacefully passed away at her home, Bonnie Oaks, in the pastoral setting of Briggsville, Wisconsin.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1901, Tockie graduated from Wells College, Aurora, New York, then studied journalism at Columbia University. After leaving Columbia, she edited *Mystery Magazine* and worked as a literary agent. She returned briefly to the midwest where she was employed by the Tuberculosis Association and the City Welfare Agency in Milwaukee. Shortly before World War II, Tockie migrated east again to serve in the Foreign Service of the US State Department and later she managed a camp for conscientious objectors. Finally, she returned to Bonnie Oaks to live with her mother, to paint, to write and to enjoy nature in what she called "her own little wilderness." Behind her barn on a small marsh beside Neenah Creek, we photographed a Sandhill Crane on its nest, a photo that became the 1977 ICF Photo of the Year. Tockie and her Briggsville home have been an integral part of the ICF story.

Through the generous donations of Tockie's many friends and her family, a memorial fund has been established. We are pleased to announce that a 16 mm movie projector will be purchased in recognition of Tockie's concern for the educational goals of ICF. A projector will allow us to share the growing number of movies about ICF, and about cranes in general, with visitors, tour groups and friends.

Her wit, her love, her sharp eye for typos, and her inspirational conversation around the fireplace at Bonnie Oaks while Sandhills trumpeted from the marsh and owls hooted from the forest, are memories of a most special human being that will always be cherished by those of us who knew and loved Tockie.

Contributions



JANUARY - MARCH, 1980

Life Membership Contributions

Evjue Foundation, Inc., Japan Air Lines, Johnson's Wax Foundation, Mr. Godo Nakanishi, Mrs. Harry Steenbock, World Wildlife Fund, Mr. Masanobu Yamaguchi.

Supporters

Mrs. & Mrs. William Piel and Mrs. F. W. Freeborn.

Associate Contributions

John & Judith Day, Burdie Grashorn, David & Martha Greig, Hoy Nature Club, Charles L. Jahn, Warren B. King, William C. Levihn, Dorothy McIlroy, William C. Messinger, Pauley Petroleum, Inc., Doris H. Platt, Jeffrey Short, Jr., Shirley Stevens, Wallace E. Wendt, Mr. & Mrs. Nash Williams, Wisconsin Power & Light Co.

Contribution of Labor and Materials

American Breeders Service, Harold Allen, Harold Bessac, Gary Bjorge, Darcey & Charlie Carpenter, Carpet Barn, Cassidy Construction, Aian Christensen, East School 6th grade-Baraboo, Eagle Signal, Edward's Agri-Supply, Linda Foster, Marion Hill, Leon R. Horsted, Mary Hubbard, Sharon Lantis, Irene Lindhe, Marge Losch, Kyoko Matsumoto, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mattox, Kunikazu Momose, Dorothy Mudd, Liz Nevers, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Peterson's Electric, Amy Reed, Esther Schadde, Yoshimitsu Shigeta, T. C. Products, Lucille Thompson, Danny Weaver, Virginia Wood, Milly Zantow.

VANISHING

WILD CRANES

I saw a grayish blue figure
Along the summer marsh grass
Among the valley rue.
Silhouette through the pearled dew sun dream.

Remember the voice
Of a spring breathing rain
Or a pocket full of SAND COUNTY ALMANAC
Leopold's fame.
Unison call on wind tips
Spring breathing rain.

I cry -
For the living marshes that are drained
to destruction.
Tho my heart flies true
Touched from pearled spring dew
On newly born oak bud.

A gliding fantasy when I gaze
Upon the silhouette of cranes
Calling from the azure sky.

Listen when the spring breathes rain
Warm's my heart when I see the cranes.

Like our minds
Go fluttering on open wing.

After a blue rain
Awakens a line
Touching harmonic tranquillity
Within the universal mind.

—by Alan Christensen



WWF Supports Siberian Cranes At ICF

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is a private, international conservation organization which raises funds to support projects to protect endangered wildlife and ecosystems globally. Established in 1961, the Fund's international headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland and there are WWF National Organizations in 27 countries, including the United States.

WWF's programs and projects are guided by the scientific expertise of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

For the past year, WWF-U.S. has supported the captive propagation of Siberian Cranes at ICF in view of the attrition of the wild cranes and the difficulty of coordinating assured conservation programs among Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, and the USSR — the lands of the Siberian Cranes.

We are pleased to report that nine Siberian Cranes are thriving at ICF. Wolf, the senior member of the group, was imported to a European zoo before World War I, and understandably produces less than accept-

able semen. Tilliman, another old male, is a fine semen producer and by artificial insemination is servicing our only adult female, Hirakawa, who has laid seven eggs by the time we go to press. Of the six Siberian Cranes reared from eggs imported from the USSR in 1977 and 1978, three are males (Aeroflot, Eduard, Bazov) and three are females (Vladimiria, Kyta, Tanya). Vladimiria and Kyta are three years old and may lay this spring.

The tiny colony of Siberian Cranes at ICF and the group now being established at the Okisky State Reserve, USSR, offer a new hope for the survival of these magnificent white cranes that number fewer than 340 in the wild. ICF wishes to thank Vogelpark Walsrode for loaning us Wolf and Tilliman, Hirakawa Zoo, Japan, for sending Hirakawa, and the USSR for sending hatching eggs. A special thanks is extended to WWF-U.S. for supporting the Species Bank of Siberian Cranes at ICF — a group from which we hope the species can eventually be restocked into the wild in secure areas as local and political climates allow.

Notes to Members

If you did not receive your Crane-of-the-Year print, please let us know. The post office does not forward bulk rate mail. If you change your address, keep ICF informed.

We are pleased to report that appointments for tours are being made in greater numbers than ever. If you plan to visit ICF, please let us know at least two weeks ahead. We will try to give you your first choice of date and time.