Siberian Crane Eggs Fly East
by George Archibald, Director

On May 17, 1983 a mere nine thousand miles of ocean and continent separated me and a precious cargo, four Siberian Crane eggs laid at ICF, from a destination to the east: Common Crane nests in the USSR’s Oka State Nature Reserve. Six years had passed since the USSR’s Ministry of Agriculture sent a slender cargo—four Siberian Crane eggs taken from the nests in the wild—to a destination in the west: ICF. Those four eggs were one of the first and most important investments in ICF’s “Species Bank” of Siberian Cranes in captivity. This spring, after years of effort, the first dividends from our species bank were finally ready to return to the wild.

Through an annual grant from the World Wildlife Fund-U.S., and with cooperation from the Soviet Union, Vogelpark Walderod, and Hiarakawa Zoo, nine Siberian Cranes were established at ICF by 1980. In 1981 the hatching of “Dushenka” at ICF marked the first breeding of this species in captivity. In 1982 ICF hatched three and three more chicks. Meanwhile, our Soviet colleagues had collected more eggs from the wild cranes, and young Siberians were reared at the Vogelpark Walderod in West Germany and a new Rare Crane Breeding Center at the USSR’s Oka Reserve, with a thriving captive flock of 33 cranes at three centers in place, our attention focused on establishing a new and more secure flock of wild Siberian Cranes in western Asia.

Secure, for Siberian Cranes, is the key word. Last winter only seven Siberians were counted in Iran, and 36 in India. Hunting in Afghanistan and Pakistan has probably been the chief cause for a 60% decline in this flock over the past decade.

Common Cranes banded near the USSR’s Oka State Nature Reserve, however, were found wintering last year in Turkey—far west of the punes in the Hindu Kush range where the Siberians are hunted. If Common Crane pairs at Oka could serve as foster parents for Siberian Crane eggs produced in captivity and lead their charges to wintering grounds in Turkey, we could establish a new migration route for Siberian Cranes over safe terrain.

1983 was set as the year to begin this experiment in restocking Siberian Cranes to the wild. ICF’s first goal this spring was to produce as many fertile eggs as possible from our captive birds. But with the exception of one adult named Hiarakawa, all our female Siberians are still too young to lay. Cold weather delayed Hiarakawa’s first egg, so she had laid only four by my departure date of May 17th.

Meanwhile, Soviet ornithologist Yuri Markin was tramping through the dense, mosquito-infested older swamps of the Oka Reserve. Against overwhelming odds, Yuri was trying to locate nests of Common Cranes that could receive Siberian eggs. In the maze of older, he was able to locate one nest, although 10-50 pairs of Common Cranes breed within the boundaries of the 123 square kilometer reserve.

Just before I left Wisconsin, we gently took the four Siberian Crane eggs away from the captive Sandhill Crane pairs that had so faithfully cared for them. Thirty-two hours later, at the first rays of dawn filtered through the pine boughs over the Oka Reserve’s breeding center, my Soviet colleagues carefully placed the eggs in an electric incubator. We, and the eggs, rested.

After a few hours sleep and a bowl of borscht, we put the oldest egg in a carrying case with a hot water bottle. Yuri Markin guided Vladimir Flint, Yuri Stanikov, and me on a boat trip up the Piv River, then led us on a hike of several kilometers toward the Common Crane nest. As we trudged along, singing chaffinches and the fragrance of Lillies of the Valley helped us survive a maddening onslaught of mosquitoes—creatures Flint calls his “little flying friends.” Then came the historic moment.

We replaced the warm Common Crane eggs with the Siberian egg and a plaster-filled Sandhill egg—just in case the parents knew how to count. We then retreated, sure that the pair would return to the nest to incubate.

The next day Vladimir Panchenko, Oka’s head aviculturist, checked the remaining three Siberian eggs for fertility. He held them against a bright light, hoping to see the dark mass of a growing embryo. All three eggs were still in the center of the platform. My disappointment and mild embarrassment showing, I began to explain the problems we’ve encountered with breeding Siberian Cranes in captivity: the erratic semen production by adult males, questionable fertility of young males, and years of waiting before young birds began breeding. The Soviets emphasized. None of their three and four-year-old Siberian Cranes had produced eggs or semen this spring, and they were convinced that they were doing something wrong. I assured them that their 14 Siberians were in feather-perfect condition, though it would probably be several more years until they bred. We then went over the ABC’s of crane management—from diet, pen lay-out, and artificial insemination to photoperiod manipulation. I also congratulated the Oka team on the extremely low mortality of birds there, and for producing six eggs from a pair of Hooded Cranes this spring.

The day before I left Oka, we revisited the Common Crane nest to answer two questions. Had the adults returned to their nest, and was the Siberian Crane egg indeed fertile? There was no sign of the parents when we reached the nest, but the Siberian egg was still in the center of the platform. The dummy Sandhill egg, though, had been rolled back to us.
Dedication Day
by Scott Freeman,
Education Coordinator

In 1979 ICF signed a contract to purchase a new site. In 1980 volunteers cleaned up trash heaps, tore out old barbed wire fences, and planted a small prairie restoration on the property. More prairie went in during 1981, and in 1982 construction began on the new building: the Johnson Exhibit Pod. This spring the years of planting, planning, and building paid off: the new site was ready to open to the public.

On Saturday, June 25th a small group of ICF's most faithful supporters gathered to dedicate the Johnson Pod and officially open the site. ICF's Board of Directors hosted a short program, featuring the people who made it possible: Norm and Claire Sauey, who gave ICF its first home; Sam and Gene Johnson, who supported the construction of the crane exhibit building; and Owen and Anne Grommes and Wolf Brehm, who are largely responsible for the purchase of the land.

Then on Sunday, June 26th ICF hosted an open house and officially opened its new door open to the public. Over 1500 visitors came through in three hours. Almost universally, people at the open house and on tours in the weeks since have been delighted with the new site: finding it both beautiful and interesting.

The photos below are an introduction to ICF's new home, for those of you who couldn't make it to Opening Day.

Kudos for the Cudahys
by Scott Freeman,
Education Coordinator

The state of education in the U.S. is creating quite an uproar this summer. Commissions are releasing weighty reports, task forces are making in-depth investigations, and politicians are pounding their fists as they debate this suddenly "hot" national issue.

Education is, coincidentally, also creating a lot of noise at ICF this summer. We've just completed work on the new Cudahy Visitor Center, and the din from the carpenters, electricians, and plumbers has been deafening.

The Cudahy building is, very likely, the most unusual building ICF will ever build. The basic structure is actually a hayloft from a barn on ICF's new site. The first floor of the barn is being remodeled into our new hatchery, so we moved the rafters of the top floor to form the skeleton of our visitor center. It's another example of good old ICF ingenuity. The arches from the hayloft are exposed on the inside, lending a gothic air to things, and quickly inspired a nickname for the building: the Cudahy Cathedral.

Bob Richard and Ann M. Cudahy Fund, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has been the major supporter of ICF's education program for the past several years. Thanks to the Cudahy Fund, our education program has made tremendous progress. The ICF-sponsored Wisconsin Sandhill Crane Count, for example, recruited and trained over 1000 volunteer participants this year. Over 10,000 people annually hear presentations given by ICF staff and volunteers, and our publicity efforts continue to give ICF wide exposure via radio, TV, newspapers, and magazines.

But when the Cudahy Fund's directors backed our proposal to build a Visitor Center, they ushered in an entirely new era for ICF's education programs. With the Visitor Center in place, ICF was able to open its new site to the public. We are, in fact, now open to visitors daily through the summer and on weekends through the fall. Attendance is already running at about double what we drew at the old site.

The new site's education program has two major goals. The first, and most important, is to tell people about cranes, wetlands, and ICF. We use the birds, films, tapes, guides, signs, slides, and brochures to first capture interest, then encourage that interest to grow into concern and support. Since the new site is just two miles from Wisconsin's major tourist area, the Wisconsin Dells, we have a large and important audience.

Our second goal is, quite frankly, to make money. Entrance fees, receipts from sales, and increased memberships from the new site are already proving to be an important source of revenue for us. If attendance grows, ICF's programs can continue to grow.

We are, in fact, just beginning to tap the new site's educational potential. Thanks to a grant from the Francis Dewing Foundation, we're completing a set of curricular materials that schools began testing, with great success, on field trips this spring. We're planning a playground complete with a large, enormous crane nest, eagle aerie, otter slide, and buffalo wallow which we hope to have completed by next summer. An attractive set of self-guided brochures for the new site will be ready for use next spring, as well as a group of signs to help us display this in the new Bicentennial Building.

Although I've heard people say that the effectiveness of an education program can't be measured—that education is a sort of invisible commodity—I disagree. If you notice the smiles, thanks, and membership cards we've received from people leaving the Cudahy Cathedral, you'd know that education can be very visible indeed.
New Site Opens

Ground Broken for Sauey Hatchery

by Konrad Liegel, Site Planner

Amid the hustle and bustle before the Grand Opening, ICF Directors Mary Wickham and George Archibald quietly signed the contract for construction of a new building complex that will take ICF one large step closer to completing its move. This new hatchery, the Norman and Claire Sauey Hatchery and Chick-Rearing Complex, will become the headquarters for ICF's captive propagation, research, and habitat restoration programs and a nucleus for ICF's education program.

Designed by architect Herb Fritz, the Sauey Hatchery Complex includes a two-story Hatchery Building, a one-story Chick-Rearing Wing, and a five-story Service Garage. The combined floorspace—over 10,000 sq. ft.—will replace the converted horse stalls at the old site with state-of-the-art facilities. The buildings should meet both ICF's immediate needs and long-term aspirations.

Construction will begin by renovating and adding to an existing concrete barn. Steel framing materials, donated by Chicago-Metallurgical Corporation of Illinois, will be integrated into a wood exterior. The hatchery building will also feature energy conservation features in lighting, window placement, and construction, as well as passive solar construction and mechanical systems.

The Sauey Hatchery Complex will be a multi-purpose facility. The southern and western portions of the building will be open to visitors, while staff will utilize the northern and eastern portions. For visitors, the theme of the hatchery will be the hatching and rearing of chicks. The hatchery's visitor rooms will include a small theatre and exhibition space. Outside, visitors will see hatched chicks and with young chicks. Room of the Chick-Rearing Wing, “Chick ramp” will be on hand to explain how to run a day-care center for crows. Graphic panels throughout the grassy exercise area will explain how chicks behave and develop.

The staff areas of the hatchery complex are designed in distinct zones. The first floor of the hatchery building, for example, has one area for incubation and hatching, separated from a second area for laboratory research and handling. The second floor has offices for 10-15 staff members, volunteers, interns, and visitors, in addition to a library, meeting room, and caretaker's apartment. The Chick-Rearing Wing has a brooder room and pens for 25 chicks—some of whom can be raised in visual isolation. Finally, the Service Garage provides space for food storage, a workshop, and tool, vehicle, and grain seed storage.

The Hatchery Complex is an ambitious set of buildings, and presented several difficult design problems. ICF's planning team included Dr. Bernard Wester and Milt Sunde of the UW-Madison Poultry Science Department; Dr. Tom Goodwin of the UW-Madison Veterinary Science Department; and Dr. Wally Hanson of the National Wildlife Health Laboratory.

The Hatchery Complex is also an ambitious fund-raising challenge for us. We're deeply grateful to Gaylord Donnelley, Chicago Metallurgic, the Kranes Foundation, Jim and Janet Ballock, Dorothy Fain, Fred Ott, Mrs. Walter Ott, Evelyn Steinbock, and Linda Achenbach for making major contributions to support the buildings.

Construction of the Sauey Hatchery Complex is now underway and will be completed by February of 1984, so our next breeding season can occur in new quarters. Before ICF can complete its move, however, one more step remains. Facilities for housing birds need to be constructed in the back area of the new property, so ICF's crane flock can move off of the old site. This “Crane City” will be set up like a housing subdivision, with crane pens staggered along service roads. Each of these units will include an indoor pen with two outside runs. Special features such as photoperiod lights, sprinklers, and heat pads will be added as necessary to accommodate the different types of crows. Detailed construction plans are now being developed in preparation for a funding drive this fall. With your continued help and support, we hope to complete our move in 1984.

Eggs Fly East (continued from page 1)

off to one side. It was cold. The Siberian egg, though, was warm—the parents were incubating!

Next, we carefully laid the Siberian egg in the open water near the nest. If the egg sank or floated without moving, it was infertile or dead. If it floated and bobbed back and forth, it contained a living embryo. We held our breath as the egg went into the water. It bobbed—it was alive! We departed quickly, full of hope that a Siberian Crane chick might be found among the flocks of Common Cranes wintering in Turkey this winter.

This year's experiment pinpointed the two major obstacles to establishing a new flock of wild Siberian Cranes. We first have to produce large numbers of fertile eggs in captivity, and then locate an equal number of Common Crane nests at the Oka Reserve. The first problem should be overcome as the maturing captive flock comes into its own. The second can be solved with the help of a technique called radio telemetry. ICF hopes to send Yuri Minkin in 20 tiny radio transmitters, attached to plastic leg bands. Yuri will capture Common Cranes this fall using an oral tranquilizer, and attach the bands to the crane's leg. Next spring, when the cranes return to breed, the radio signals will lead Yuri to the nests.

Vladimir Flint places a Siberian Crane egg in a Common Crane nest, while Yuri Markin and Yuri Starikov look on.

On May 25th I boarded an Aeroflot flight to Beijing, China to begin an EARTHWATCH-sponsored research program at the Zha Long Natural Reserve. In one week, ICF and the Oka team had taken a huge step in the effort to save Siberian Cranes from extinction. As the plane gained altitude and the Russian landscape receded, my heart was warmed by the thought of a young Siberian Crane chick eating some of those moths, the determination of my beloved colleagues at Oka and in Moscow, and the hope that Siberian Cranes will continue to spread bands of friendship throughout Asia.
**SPOTLIGHT:**

"The Execs"

Mary Wickchem and James Kuehn, two members of ICF's Executive Board, kept the spotlight moving at the ceremony to dedicate the new Johnson Ex-Change. They handed ICF's staff, the Board of Directors, and the many long-time supporters and patrons who were present.

In fact, Mary and Jim had the spotlight on just about everyone except themselves on opening day. That was typical of them, although they've had as much to do with the new site's development as anyone.

As the leading members of our Board's Executive Committee, they've been responsible for approving and overseeing each stage of the move.

When Mary Wickchem and Jim Kuehn first joined ICF's Board about six years ago, they were impressed by the dedication and hard work of the young staff, and excited by the prospect of the entire operation moving to new quarters. But they were also impressed that the young staff needed some hand-on legal and financial help for the project, and quickly began to provide it.

Jim Kuehn has overseen ICF's financial affairs with, as one Board member put it, "more time and energy than most people put into their own." Specifically, his direction on investments, loans, building contract negotiations, and cash flow made ICF able to afford to move. Jim is ICF's financial wizard--the man the staff looks to for the green (or red) light on new projects.

Mary Wickchem is, for ICF, a person of many talents. As President of the Board, she organizes and chairs the biannual meetings. Since she's a polished public speaker, she often appears on ICF's televised Public Service Announcements. She's also brought key legal advice to the Foundation, with the help of her husband John--also an ICF Board member. Mary is the Board's organizer and director--one of the real shakers and movers behind ICF's cause at Johnson Ex-Change.

As long as the spotlight is on Mary Wickchem and Jim Kuehn for a moment. They won't consent to stay in it very long, though--they've always got too many other things to get to.

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**Crane Counts**

**HOKKAIDO, JAPAN**

by Kunitsa Momose, ICF-Japan

In May of this year ICF-Japan, in cooperation with the Japan Yacho (Wild Bird) Society, sponsored surveys for Crane, in eastern Hokkaido. Dr. Hidetsuki Masutomi, the leading authority on Japan's Tancho, was joined by Mr. Shintaro Abe, Mr. Takeshi Segmoto, and myself.

We spent a total of nine flight hours over a span of three days looking for breeding pairs. Due to our bad weather we had to spend our three additional days on the ground interviewing local people and doing ground surveys from hills surrounding the marsh.

Since weather limited our flight time--graciously donated by our pilot Mr. Nagayama--we could only survey areas where nests had been found previously.

We spotted 66 nests and a total of 170 cranes, including sightings on the winter feeding stations and along the coast. If we add cranes which were not visible but whose mates were seen incubating, our total count increases to an estimated 200 birds. This is about two-thirds of the 300 cranes counted last year.

**BHARATPUR, INDIA**

from press releases

India's first Sarus Crane count took place on April 25th of this year, in and around the Keoladeo National Park near Bharatpur. Steven Landirk, a consultant to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, worked with Park officials, staff from the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Ghana Keoladeo National History Society in organizing the project.

On April 25th volunteers from the local area participate, and spotted a total of 258 Sarus.

According to K. K. Gupta, Secretary of the Natural History Society, "A primary goal of our project is to involve more and more local people in the preservation of rare species, and make them more aware of the cause of nature conservation." Dr. V. S. Vayajan, Project Scientist of BNHS, said "I'm really overwhelmed to see the response of the people. The scientists were here, of course, but other people were really involved, too. This is the first in India and it is an historic event."

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**Grants and Awards**


**Patrons:**

- Mrs. Lee Day Gillespie, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Haig, Doris Platt.

**Sponsors:**

- Oakesh B'Gosh, Inc., Margaret Winston.

**Associates:**

- Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Aucinhos, Susan Avery, Virginia Baker, Charles and Nira Bradley, Eleanor Brown, John and Barbara Garfield, Mrs. Helen Crane, John and Judy Day, DuPage Audubon Society, Theodore Elliot, James Forswerda, K. and E. Findley, Harold Frenz, Mr. and Mrs. James Heyworth, Charlotte Hutchinson, Kikkoman Foods, Inc., Bob and Mam Kohls, Mrs. Kersmer, Julia McClean, David Morton, Warner Nartel, Charlotte Oglesby, Dr. Philip Piper, Christine Plechmen, William Preston, Tom Roberts, Tom and Mary Schappert, J. B. Duke Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Seifert, David Shum, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Teko, Mrs. A. M. Thompson, Ruth Weeden, Mrs. Howard Weekly, Mr. and Mrs. Nash Williams.

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**The Bottom Line**

by Bob Hallam,
Development Coordinator

Some ICF members, well aware that the long recession in the U.S. has hit many non-profit organizations, have been concerned about ICF's fundraising efforts. "How are you doing financially?" is a question we're often asked.

Fortunately, thanks to continued support from our members, our financial outlook is fairly good. Unlike many non-profits, our income and programs have actually been growing steadily the last several years. The problem, of course, is that our expenses have also been growing steadily. Maintaining two sites, coupled with construction costs, has put a strain on our budget.

Mr. James Kuehn, a member of our Board of Director's Executive Committee, has been working overtime to keep ICF's budget on target. Thanks to Jim's help, our baseline expenses are in line and accounted for. How fast and fast we go into developing the new site, however, always depends on the success of our capital fund drive.

To date, the capital drive for the Steen Hatchery and Chick-Rearing Complex has brought in a total of $14,000 in stock and cash gifts, Mr. Samuel Johnson of the Reinsworth Laboratory has graciously donated 100 prints of a lovely painting called "Tancho", by Owen Geometric, to the drive. Anyone who contributes $5,000 or more toward the capital fund campaign will receive one of these prints.

If we continue to grow, at this critical transition time, depends primarily on the continued generosity of our past supporters. We greatly value your concern and contributions.