



Flying with Cranes:

ICF Tracks Migration of Black-necked Cranes in China



This spring ICF is partnering with Signals of Spring to involve students across the U.S. in tracking the annual northern migration of five Black-necked Cranes in western China. The birds were captured on their wintering grounds at Cao Hai and Dashanbao Nature Reserves



Photo by Crane Wu

in southwestern China. Each bird is fitted with a satellite transmitter, which allows researchers to learn more

about the birds' migration routes and summering areas as they track their daily movements over several months. Signals of Spring is incorporating location data from the banded Black-necked Cranes into their online education activities, which combine data on animal migration with earth imagery data on climate and geography. To view a

map of the 2006 spring migration developed by Signals of Spring, visit www.flyingwithcranes.org

The ICF Bugle

Inspiring a Global Community

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New Education Center Brings Together People and Cranes



By Ann Burke, Director of Public Relations, and Jim Harris, ICF President

From June to September ICF presents *A Winter in Hokkaido*. French photographer Vincent Munier portrays the spectacular birdlife of Japan's northern island, where Red-crowned Cranes and other birds have thrived, thanks in good part to human hands.

"What I wanted was to show these birds that are still so beautiful in such harsh conditions. If my pictures would help to make people realize that we have to protect these beautiful birds, it would be fantastic! It is my little contribution..."

Vincent Munier

Story on page 2.

New items are arriving daily in our Gift Shop.

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More on our new exhibits page 2

Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, July 15
Pure Prairie 4 - 8 pm

Saturday, September 9
ICF Annual Members Meeting



Continued from page 1.

This season, ICF is excited to share the new Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Family Education Center with the public. Upon entering this beautiful, just remodeled facility, you'll find it hard to believe that this space was home to legions of crane chicks from 1984 until 2005, when ICF moved its chick operations to a new rearing facility far from human disturbance.

The new Felburn Interpretive Room, within the Education Center, provides a focal point for exploring important relationships between people and cranes. One of the center's highlights is a high definition television monitor connected to a pan and tilt camera that visitors can directly control and move to view costumed caretakers rearing Whooping Crane chicks in the new rearing facility. Using examples from ICF programs in North America, Asia, Africa and Europe, other exhibits explain how ICF provides educational opportunities, builds partnerships, and uses poverty alleviation to address conservation challenges facing communities living with cranes.

There are special places on ICF's site that staff members love to visit on their own, or show to visitors. Now we have another such place, the curved wall in the middle of this room displaying the world map. The map shows the flyways of the world's cranes, lines

of flight that connect distant places. Here is a spot for telling the stories of cranes -- the challenges and successes of crane conservation are literally spread across the immense world. Somehow the map is startling, a tangible portrayal of the global nature of our work.

Then behind the wall, half enclosed by the curve of the world, nestles a small video theater with the faces and voices of people from distant places, speaking about cranes. Stepping into this intimate space, you come face to face with people who care, just like you.

ICF's commitment to conservation on all levels is exemplified by Site Manager Dave Chesky's decision to incorporate numerous energy-saving features into the renovation of the building. Examples range from hydro-electric restroom faucets to environmentally-friendly products like "Marmoleum" (an organic flooring made from linseed oil, rosins, and wood flour). Dave is most proud of the geothermal heating/cooling system due to its high-energy efficiency and significantly lower operating costs.

The Center will host workshops, art exhibits, special events, and thousands of visiting children each year. ICF invites you and your family to visit this summer.

The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Family Education Center was made possible thanks to the generous support of Strachan and Vivian Donnelley. Additional funding provided by: The Felburn Foundation; The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; Laura Donnelley; Strachan Donnelley Family Trust; Naomi Donnelley; Inanna Donnelley; Posy Krehbiel and ICF member contributions.

The Felburn Foundation provided major funding for the Felburn Interpretive Room, other donors included: Alliant Energy Foundation; Baraboo National Bank; Betsy N. Getz in honor of George A. Ranney; AMS Fund; Bobolink Foundation; R.D. and Linda Peters Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Join us Saturday, June 3

Enjoy a day at ICF as we dedicate the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Family Education Center, followed by a free reception.

- **10:15 am - 12:00 pm & 1:30 - 2:45 pm:** Stationed in front of the crane exhibits, ICF's international colleagues from South Africa, India, Russia, Cambodia, and Vietnam will share their inspirational stories from the field.
- **3:00 pm - 4:45 pm:** Building dedication and free reception. Meet in front of the Education Center.
- **All Day:** Don't miss French photographer Vincent Munier's *A Winter in Hokkaido* in the Education Center Gallery and the Children's International Art Exhibit in the lower level of the library.



Tancho by Vincent Munier Price: \$60

Tancho is the Japanese word for Red-crowned Crane and the title of this over-sized gorgeous coffee table book of crane and bird photographs by French photographer Vincent Munier. The book is a U.S. exclusive for ICF. Shop our Giftshop or on the web at www.savingcranes.org and click on Shop. Text is in French, but it is primarily a book of photographs. Learn more about Vincent and his work at: www.vincentmunier.com.

Exhibit photos at top by Betsy Didrickson and Next Level Communications



History Frames Crane Gathering

By Michael S. Putnam, ICF Curator of Birds

A peaceful revolution in the crane world took place in one of the oldest cities in North America when the North American Crane Working Group (NACWG) convened its 10th meeting in Zacatecas, Mexico, site of six major rebellions between 1540 and 1920, including Pancho Villa's victory in the largest battle of the Mexican Revolution.

NACWG started informally in 1975 when crane biologists held their first workshop at the International Crane Foundation (ICF) and have since met every three or four years, while officially forming in May 1987. Since then, they kept this schedule of meetings in either Canada or the U. S. The written proceedings from these workshops are an important source of information on developments in crane biology and conservation.

But it was not until this year that NACWG met in North America's third country -- Mexico. Despite being the winter home to a large portion of the continent's Sandhill Cranes and having the largest former winter range for Whooping Cranes, Canadian and U. S. crane biologists previously had little contact with Mexican biologists.

Zacatecas, one of Mexico's oldest mining towns, retains its historic grace, and our meeting place, Museo Rafael Coronel, was a convent from the late 1500s until 1857. Now being renovated into an art museum, this historic campus was an ideal setting for this meeting of 75 crane enthusiasts from six countries, including 13 from Mexico, on

February 8 -10, 2006. The workshop had two days of presentations that book-ended a day of field trips to cultural and biological sites in the state of Zacatecas.

Prominent on the program were ICF employees and associates. The co-founder, staff from the departments of Crane Conservation, Field Ecology, and Veterinary Services, interns, and visiting students were among the 13 authors on 12 of the 45 presentations scheduled for the meeting. The presentations clustered into three broad categories.

First, were five papers featuring Whooping Cranes. Lara Fondow coauthored a presentation on the growth of the Eastern Migratory population released between 2001 and 2005 to 64 birds. In addition, she presented the findings of her study on winter habitat selection by these same birds. Two Mexican students, Siux Diaz and Ruth Partida, who spent the summer months at ICF in 2005, coauthored with Anne Lacy and me, a presentation on Whooping Cranes in Mexico. We reviewed the species former distribution, the status of those wetlands today and the prospects of these birds returning as winter residents. I presented two papers, one with Jessica Stocking on food consumption by captive Whooping Cranes, and another with Stacy Puchta and Kelly Maguire on egg breaking by ICF's captive cranes. Among the 15 species, Whooping Cranes are more likely to break their own eggs than most other species.

Second, were four papers on Sandhill

Photo of Museo Rafael Coronel by Barry Hartup

Cranes, with three of them from Field Ecology's long term study near Briggsville, Wisconsin. Anne Lacey opened with a talk on nest site selection. Matt Hayes, a former Field Ecology intern now at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, presented on mate switching and extra-pair paternity. He found the average pair bond lasted 5.7 years and that divorce occurs. Similarly, Matt showed that eggs tended by a pair aren't always fertilized by that pair's male. So much for cranes being symbols of fidelity! George Archibald prepared a talk on the relationship between beavers and a pair of Sandhills on his property.

Third, were three papers on emerging diseases in cranes by Barry Hartup. In these presentations we learned about the prevalence of antibodies to West Nile Virus and Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD) in ICF's captive flock as well as IBD in the non-migratory Whooping Cranes released in Florida.

Overall, Zacatecas provided the perfect backdrop for this historic meeting of crane biologists from all three North American countries. The success of the meeting results from the fine work of organizers Felipe Chavez-Ramirez, Marilyn Spaulding, Miguel Angel Diaz, Manuel Macias Patio and Patricio Tavizon.

For expanded abstracts of the talks by ICF staff, see the What's New section on our website www.savingcranes.org. For more information on NACWG see www.nacwg.org.

Noble Effort by NGO and Communities to Help Cranes in Afghanistan

By, Ghulam Malikiyar, Director of Save the Environment - Afghanistan (SEA), Qais Aghan (SEA) and George Archibald, ICF Co-founder



The edges of the lakes in Afghanistan's magnificent Band-i-amir National Park are resting areas for migrating cranes. Unfortunately, hunters wait in the tall reeds. Photo by Wali Modaqiq of SEA.



One of the last two Siberian Cranes in India in 2002-03 winter, at Keoladeo National Park. Photo by N C Dhingra.



Members of Save the Environment of Afghanistan (SEA) give educational materials with conservation messages to local people (in hats) who live along the Amu Darya River where thousands of Eurasian Cranes now winter. Photo by George Archibald.

Warmer winter weather on the northern continents appears to be a factor that may be causing cranes to spend the colder months further north. Some Greater Sandhill Cranes, which once wintered in Florida and Georgia, are now wintering in Tennessee and Indiana. Thousands of Eurasian Cranes that used to winter on the Iberian Peninsula are now wintering in northeast France, and cranes formerly wintering in India now remain through winter along the lowlands of the Amu Darya River that defines international boundaries between Afghanistan and its northern neighbors of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. During the winter of 2004-05, Dr. Yevgeniya Lanovenko in Uzbekistan and Dr. Eldar Rustanov in Turkmenistan determined that several thousands of Eurasian Cranes spent the entire winter in their respective nations along the border with Afghanistan.

The Siberian Crane flock, which until recently migrated between Russia and India, shared much of its passage with Eurasian Cranes. Satellite radios attached to two juvenile Siberian Cranes in the 1990s traced their path to the lowlands of the Amu Darya River in Uzbekistan while on their way to India. These

Siberian Cranes were regular winter visitors for many decades at Keoladeo National Park, about 110 miles south of New Delhi. In 1981, their breeding grounds were discovered on the lowlands of the Kunovat River not far south of the Arctic Circle in western Siberia. Well studied and protected on both the wintering grounds and the breeding grounds, the numbers of cranes slowly declined although reproduction was good. Hunting along their 3500 mile migration route is believed to have been the primary cause of the demise of these great white birds.



Map by Zoë Rickenbach

In 2002 the last pair was observed by scientists on the known breeding grounds. Yet local people living near the Siberian Cranes nesting grounds continue to report seeing Siberian Cranes. Could it be that Siberian Cranes have joined Eurasian Cranes to winter on the lowlands of the Amu Darya River, 1600 miles north of wintering grounds in India? In March of 2003, an ornithologist in Uzbekistan, Dr. Elena Kruesberg-Murkina, received reliable reports of four Siberian Cranes near a lake in northern Uzbekistan in late March and early April. These birds were within the flyway to India but had not been spotted that winter in India. Perhaps they spent the winter

along the lowlands of the Amu Darya or another location?

In mid-December of 2005, George Archibald joined Afghan colleagues from a private organization, Save the Environment - Afghanistan (SEA), on a brief expedition to the Amu Darya lowlands just across the river from Uzbekistan. They only had part of two days in the field, and unfortunately did not observe cranes. The local people, however, reported that cranes wintered in large numbers in the area. To continue the work Qais Aghan, a student of agriculture in Masar-i-Sharif, agreed to study cranes on weekends for the remainder of the winter.

Qais determined that the Shortepa District, across the river from Uzbekistan, is an important wintering area for Eurasian Cranes. In Shortepa there are 16 villages and about 15 – 16,000 local people that all speak Turkmeny. Farming, carpet weaving and harvesting licorice root are primary sources of income. Although there is one high school and seven primary schools, illiteracy is prevalent. Some local people hunt cranes and keep captured cranes as pets. The lowlands of the Joi Wakil Village, along a southern tributary of the Amu Darya River, and the wetlands near Shortepa are major migration stopovers and gathering areas for cranes and other waterfowl. The area is also popular for hunting. The local people know Siberian Cranes but few have been seen in recent years. In 2000, a professional hunter by the name of Jaan Mohamad observed and shot a Siberian Crane near Shortepa village. In subsequent years, he did not observe any white cranes.

Qais distributed posters and other educational materials and arranged talks to the local people. He met with clerics to encourage

them to speak in the mosques about the conservation of nature. During migration season in March, in an effort to reduce crane hunting, Qais invited two local doctors in the Shortepa District to describe to the hunters the possible effects that avian influenza might have on people.

In March 2006, the SEA team continued the educational process by collaborating with the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and other concerned ministries in an effort to protect migratory birds from hunters and to educate people throughout Afghanistan about the possible effects of avian influenza. SEA has new challenges to effectively work with partners to educate local people about this disease. The goals are to enable local people to make responsible decisions on the management or release of captive cranes and reduce the risk of culling wild cranes and waterfowl for fear that they may transmit avian influenza to domestic birds and humans.

In February of 2007, George hopes to join Qais and other SEA members in the field in northern Afghanistan to study the cranes wintering along the Amu Darya, to meet with local leaders and clerics to provide information on the best management techniques concerning avian influenza, and to evaluate possibilities for the reintroduction of Siberian Cranes using techniques that are bringing back the Whooping Cranes to eastern North America. Because of climate change and the good work of Afghan, Turkmen and Uzbek conservationists, one day perhaps the Amu Darya lowlands will be a good winter home for Siberian Cranes as the next step in restoring the central Asian population.

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The ICF Bugle is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation. ICF was founded in 1973 by Ronald Saucy, 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
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Sustaining	\$250
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New Logo and New Look for ICF

By Jim Harris, President

We are delighted to present the new logo for the International Crane Foundation. We have chosen a dancing crane, because cranes are famous for their dancing. This bird may look familiar, the dancing crane comes from the painting by David Rankin of all 15 crane species that ICF made into our popular *Biodiversity* poster. More recently David's image has been the signature piece on our website and brochures.

David tells us that he worked hardest on this particular crane in the painting, as he wanted the motion and lift of the bird to draw our eyes into the line-up of the world's cranes.

The logo expresses qualities that the cranes have bestowed upon ICF, their elegance and beauty and the global nature of our mission. The logo has simplicity and clarity. The rim of the world appears – for our work spans the world – and the crane dances beside a river, expressing our commitment to safeguarding the ecosystems on which cranes depend.



Our new logo, and the graphics identity that accompanies it, were designed by Sharon Dana of Dana Graphic Design. You will be seeing this new look in all of our publications, our website, signs on site, and other materials we provide for our diverse audiences. Given our varied partners and our activities on five continents, design and consistency are vital to promoting recognition for a small, efficient organization that has had enormous success at involving others and bridging conflict. Through the cranes, ICF has inspired a global community to work together on wildlife and resource issues of vital importance to humanity as well as to cranes.

We look forward to sharing with you our new letterhead, a new family of brochures, and the just completed exhibits in the Donnelley Education Center – all of them sharing the simplicity and elegance expressed by the river dance of our crane logo.

18th Annual Bird-a-thon

If you haven't had a chance to get involved in the 2006 Bird-a-thon, please consider becoming a participant or making a contribution. The Bird-a-thon is important to ICF not only for the income it raises, but also as a way of introducing new people to our work. Last year, the Bird-a-thon brought 119 new members into the ICF family! Over the past 17 years, the Bird-a-thon has raised more than \$400,000.

To be eligible for prizes, participants should plan to go out and identify their bird species during one 24-hour period between April 15 and May 31, 2006. The Grand Prize this year is a \$250 Orvis gift certificate. Second and third place winners will receive a copy of "Tancho" by world-renowned wildlife photographer Vincent Munier; and the fourth through tenth place winners will receive a copy of "The Propitious Crane: Selections from Crane Wu's Photographic works."

For more information, please go to this link on our website: www.savingcranes.org/about/whats_new/events.cfm or, contact Greg Schultz, Membership Director, at gregs@savingcranes.org or 608-356-9462 x144. You can also fill out the form below, clip it and mail it to:

Bird-a-thon, P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI 53913

Please charge \$_____ to my credit card:

Visa MasterCard Discover

Acc't Number _____ Exp. Date _____

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or Please make check payable to the International Crane Foundation

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Yes! I want to participate in the 2006 Bird-a-thon:

I'd like to volunteer to count birds and recruit sponsors. Please send me more information and a Bird-a-thon kit.

I would like to pledge \$1.00 50¢ 25¢ Other _____ per species counted in support of:

The Presidential Team (ICF President Jim Harris & friends) This team anticipates seeing over 150 species on their Bird-a-thon.

The Craniacs Team (comprised of ICF co-founder, George Archibald & friends) This team anticipates seeing over 120 species on their Bird-a-thon.

The Development Team (the development staff & other novice birders)

I would like to make an outright gift in support of the 2006 Bird-a-thon event. Enclosed is my donation of:

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____