SIBERIAN CRANE
FLYWAY NEWS

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Photo by Ananda Banerj

Compiled by Elena Ilyashenko
ICF/CMS Siberian Crane Flyway Coordinator
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Captive Breeding

Rearing of Siberian Cranes at Oka Crane Breeding Center for Release into the Wild in 2004

by Tatiana Kashentseva and Kirill Postelnych

Breeding and raising of Siberian Cranes in 2004 was conducted mostly by natural methods: natural lighting, natural incubation of eggs, natural care by crane-parents.

The general results of the breeding of 8 pairs of Siberian Cranes are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Results of Siberian Crane Breeding in 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># p/b</th>
<th>Period of egg laying</th>
<th>Eggs</th>
<th>Chicks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>total</td>
<td>fertile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>05.05.-08.05.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>24.04.-29.04.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10.04.-29.04.</td>
<td>5*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.04.-15.04.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>24.04.-11.06.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>23.04.-26.04.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>03.05.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>28.03.-22.04.</td>
<td>6**</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Egg broken by birds.
** All eggs from this pair are infertile, but when a fertile egg from a different pair was placed in their nest, they incubated it successfully and raised the chick.
*** One of the chicks had been prepared for release on the Siberian Cranes wintering grounds in Iran.

Pairs were allowed to raise one chick each. Four Siberian Crane eggs were placed in the nests of cranes of other species. One of the hatched chicks was killed by his foster parents – a pair of Red-Crowned Cranes – on the day it hatched. Three Siberian Crane chicks were raised by pairs of Red-crowned, White-naped and Eurasian Cranes that have had previous experience of chick-rearing. Chicks raised in these families grew and developed normally.

Chicks raised by parents, in addition to the normal captive crane diet (crane pellets, boiled egg, curds, pieces of fresh raw fish), were regularly fed berries, germinated grain, live small fish, mollusks and insects - food items that young birds need to know and be able to find in the wild.

Prior to their departure to the release sites, chicks were placed in groups. They were grouped according to age, the kind of family that raised the chick (Siberian Cranes or surrogate parents), and also the number of birds already present in places where release was planned. At the age of about two months, when young birds learn to fly, a repeated imprinting occurs on their own species. Because of that, the chicks raised by surrogate parents were removed from their foster parents and placed near the Siberian Crane families.

Fig. 1. Siberian Crane with chick. Photo by I. Gavrilova
In general, the 2004 season of Siberian Crane breeding can be considered a successful one.

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Propagation of Siberian Cranes at Moscow Zoo in 2004

By Olga Rozdina

In 2004, three chicks hatched in two nests of breeding pairs of Siberian Cranes at Moscow Zoo. One of these pairs has been capable of breeding since 2002 but only by means of artificial insemination. The female of this pair is very aggressive toward her male, so both birds have to be kept in separate open-air cages. The female who usually sits on eggs alone raised one of the chicks successfully. These cranes had also brought up two chicks in 2003.

The young couple of Siberian Cranes raised at the Oka Crane Breeding Center began breeding for the first time this year. To stimulate the breeding, female from this pair was artificially inseminated. However, judging by the time when the female laid eggs, the birds have also mated on their own. The parents raised one chick; the other one was raised by hand.

At present, all these chicks live at the Moscow Zoo.

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Data on Siberian Crane Propagation at CBCC in 2004

By Rob Belterman

At Cracid & Crane Breeding and Conservation Center (CBCC) 10 chicks were born from 7 different Siberian Crane males and females.

Chicks are still unsexed and 1 chick died after 4 months. There were no other Siberian Crane breeding in Western Europe during 2004.

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Beijing Zoo Successfully Bred Siberian Cranes Using Frozen Semen in 2004

By Zhang Jing

Using the formula of frozen diluents developed by ICF, Beijing Zoo preserved the semen of Siberian Cranes for 3 days, after which a female crane was artificially inseminated by the thawed frozen semen before ovulation (?). Two tests were conducted; one egg laid on 25 April was fertile and a chick numbered 2004 – 501 hatched on 25 May; it is growing well.

Zhang Jing, Beijing Zoo
(Adopted from China Crane News Dec.2004, vol. 8 (2)

Reintroduction

Siberian Crane Reintroduction at Belozersky Wildlife Refuge in 2004

By Yuri Markin, Svetlana Bobkova, Pavel Rozhkov, Vladimir Drobyshevsky, and Yuri Zatsepin.

On 18 August, 10 young Siberian Cranes, raised at OCBC were delivered in crates first to Tyumen, and then to the base camp on the territory of the Belozersky Wildlife Refuge (Zakaznik) (Armizon District, Tyumen Region). There the cranes were marked with white plastic and standard aluminum rings.

The next day the crates with cranes were transported first by truck and then by motor boats to Omelino Island in Beloye Lake, which is located in a forested steppe, where annual releases of Siberian Cranes into the wild have been conducted since 1995. There the cranes were put inside a round metal mesh pen with a netting on top, which was prepared in advance and placed in 100 meters from the water.

On 20 August, the door of the pen was left open, so that the cranes could walk out, and some food was left outside and inside the pen.

On 22 August, we tried to catch one of the one-year-old birds in order to place a radio-transmitter on it. However, when we approached, the cranes flew up, circled the island and landed as a group. Later, when some of the cranes entered the pen, we managed to catch four of the birds and one-year-old named Aldan. Aldan was marked with a radio-transmitter, which was attached to a green ring with number 10. The...
transmitter was placed on the bird’s left leg below the standard ring. But the very next day Aldan managed to tear off the antenna and the transmitter became inoperable.

From the moment of release the cranes were trying to keep together in one group, mostly close to the pen, but sometimes wandering to some shallow wetland to feed on mollusks. After 24 August, when the pen was removed, they still kept close to the spot of their release. After 27 August, we quit putting out grain for the cranes and they started moving about the whole island during the day, returning to the site of release for the night.

On 31 August, the young Siberian Cranes were disturbed and left the island altogether. From this time on the Siberian Cranes kept in two groups – one of six, another of four birds. The six-bird group consisted of two one-year-old birds and four chicks, and the group of four – of one one-year-old bird named Voronezh, and three chicks. Interestingly, the birds stayed in the same groups as when being raised at OCBC.

During the entire time of our observations the group of six birds was feeding in the harvested wheat field joined by a family of Eurasian Cranes with one chick. The group of four kept to a narrow strip of the harvested wheat field between a paved road and Yakushino Lake. When disturbed, they would fly towards the lake, then returned to their field. After 12 September, Voronezh separated from the group and stayed at the lake alone. For the night, the Siberian Cranes flew together with the Eurasian Cranes to the Omelino Island. On 14 and 15 September, only Voronezh could still be seen while the other birds were nowhere to be found. On 16 September, we stopped our observations but were getting information from the local residents. According to their accounts, the Siberian Cranes were last seen on 27 September.

Simultaneously with the monitoring of the released Siberian Cranes a daily count of Eurasian Cranes had been conducted at the site of their pre-migratory concentration. On the day of the release, up to 600 birds were accounted for; the largest number of birds – up to 1,400 – was registered in the end of the first decade of September, after which the numbers began to decrease. Due to the warm weather that fall the cranes stayed around the fields until early October.

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P. Rozhkov
Moscow Zoo

Fig. 1-3. Released Siberian Cranes at Belozersky Wildlife Refuge (Armizon District, Tyumen Region). Photo by Yu. Markin
Siberian Crane Reintroduction
in Astrakhan Nature Reserve in 2004

By Yuri Markin, German Rusanov, Vladimir Borisov, and Anatoli Kashin

Releases of Siberian Cranes at Astrakhan State Nature Reserve were conducted between 11-20 October 2004. Staff involved in the release and the follow-up monitoring of the Siberian Cranes were employees of Astrakhan Reserve (G.M. Rusanov and A.A. Kashin) and Oka Reserve (Y.M. Markin, Y.S. Zatsepin and V.G. Borisov). This work was financially supported by the Cracid & Crane Breeding and Conservation Center and personally Mr. Geer Scheres.

On 11-12 October, four Siberian Crane males raised at OCBC were transported in specially made crates by two vehicles to the Obzhorovo Site of the Astrakhan Nature Reserve. The Reserve is situated in Volga River Delta where the river branches out into many small rivers and brooks before it runs into the Caspian Sea. This is a usual stop-over place of the wild Siberian Cranes during their fall migration, and sometimes also during the spring migration. Large open shallow wetlands have been overgrown here with tall and dense reed thickets (up to 3 meters tall), that created channels and springs among the shores with narrow strips of willow trees. Transportation between these sites is possible only by boat. Among the reed thickets and where the water is deeper, open spaces called “kultuks” are formed that serve as resting places to many birds. Due to the density of the reed growth it is difficult to approach these spots either by boat or on foot. As a result, when Siberian Cranes stay in “kultuks” or inside the reed thickets, it is practically impossible to spot them from the dry land.

On 13 October, upon our arrival to the base camp, we conducted a health check of all our cranes, including weighing and marking. All the birds were found in good condition. The cranes were placed in a temporary pen, which was put up for them on a small sandy knoll. To provide cranes with drinking water, several holes were dug in the ground, which immediately were filled with underground water; then food was placed in the pen (crane pellets and pieces of fresh fish). After the cranes were released into the pen, they began cleaning themselves up, eating and drinking. There was no aggression toward each other since at OCBC before the trip the cranes were kept separately in pens next to one another.

On 14 October, one of the chicks, the strongest and the calmest male called Gzhat, was marked with a satellite transmitter (PTT) #19988. After this all the cranes were released: – the mesh on one side of the pen was lifted, the cranes came out and, having walked for a short while, they flew toward the left channel of the Kutum River.

During a period of constant observations from 14-19 October, the birds kept in the area of release together as a group; sometimes one of them would walk away alone, but would eventually reunite with the group.
On 19 October, after the Oka Nature Reserve staff headed home, the staff of Astrakhan Nature Reserve continued the monitoring, regularly coming out to the place of the release and watching the Siberian Cranes movements.

According to the visual observations from 9-25 January and the data from the satellite transmitter placed on Siberian Crane Gzhat, the cranes remained in the release area at Astrakhan Nature Reserve. The observers had documented disappearance of one of the chicks born in 2004. The weather in December and January was warm enough, the Volga River delta did not freeze, but became so shallow that an attempt to locate the Siberian Cranes failed – it was impossible to approach the release site by boat because of numerous dry spots.

On 17 January, an aerial search was conducted, and the birds were located not far from the release site. All three birds remained in one group in a small bay, almost straight across from the place of release. The bay is hidden from sight in all directions, so the cranes could not be seen from the river or from the “kultuk”. The bay runs through a narrow channel into a thicket of reeds, from where the PTT signals were coming. The bay is only partially dry and it is well protected from wind and therefore is very attractive to the birds. Even when the airplane was making circles over the bay the cranes remained in place.

There is a large number of wintering waterbirds in the delta. During the aerial survey over 700,000 birds were counted, including 140,000 swans.

On 26 January the weather changed suddenly, it became significantly colder with the temperature dropping to –15°C, the rivers froze, with only a few spots of open water left.

The PTT signals from 26 January reveal the fact that the Siberian Cranes had departed from the territory of the Astrakhan Reserve. These signals came from Dagestan, a well-known part of the flyway. When the temperature drops so suddenly, the wintering waterbirds fly from the Volga delta south-west along the coast of the Caspian Sea. Evidently the Siberian Cranes took off together with them.

Fig. 3. Released Siberian Cranes in Astrakhan Nature Reserve in January 2005. Photo was made during air survey. Photo by G. Rusanov
Unfortunately, the signal from 26 January was the last one to be received from this satellite transmitter. We have no further data on the released birds.

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**Banding 2004**

**Banding of Released Siberian Cranes in 2004**

*By Yuri Markin*

Data on banding of Siberian Cranes reared in captivity and released in migration stopovers in Russia (Belozersky Refuge, Tyumen Region, and Astrakhan Nature Reserve) in August and in November 2004 are summarized in the Table below.

**Table. Banding of released Siberian Cranes in 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of release</th>
<th>Place of release</th>
<th>Band on right leg</th>
<th>Band on left leg</th>
<th>Date of hatch in OCBC</th>
<th>Rearing technique</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alazea</td>
<td>17 August 2004</td>
<td>Belozersky Zakaznik, Tyumen Region, Russia</td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring <strong>A 25401</strong></td>
<td>White plastic ring with black number <strong>200</strong></td>
<td>15 May 2004</td>
<td>parental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vyazma</td>
<td>17 August 2004</td>
<td><em><strong>”</strong></em></td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring <strong>A 25412</strong></td>
<td>White plastic ring with black number <strong>208</strong></td>
<td>15 May 2004</td>
<td>parental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klyazma</td>
<td>17 August 2004</td>
<td><em><strong>”</strong></em></td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring <strong>A 25402</strong></td>
<td>White plastic ring with black number <strong>204</strong></td>
<td>18 May 2004</td>
<td>parental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mezen</td>
<td>17 August 2004</td>
<td><em><strong>”</strong></em></td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring <strong>A 25406</strong></td>
<td>White plastic ring with black number <strong>205</strong></td>
<td>24 May 2004</td>
<td>parental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuya</td>
<td>17 August 2004</td>
<td><em><strong>”</strong></em></td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring <strong>A 25413</strong></td>
<td>White plastic ring with black number <strong>209</strong></td>
<td>26 May 2004</td>
<td>parental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshta</td>
<td>17 August 2004</td>
<td><em><strong>”</strong></em></td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring <strong>A 25409</strong></td>
<td>White plastic ring with black number <strong>206</strong></td>
<td>27 May 2004</td>
<td>parental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasha</td>
<td>17 August 2004</td>
<td><em><strong>”</strong></em></td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring <strong>A 25408</strong></td>
<td>White plastic ring with black number <strong>207</strong></td>
<td>28 May 2004</td>
<td>parental</td>
<td>Raised by White-naped Cranes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moskva</td>
<td>17 August 2004</td>
<td><em><strong>”</strong></em></td>
<td>White plastic ring with black number <strong>201</strong></td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring <strong>A 25411</strong></td>
<td>6 June 2003</td>
<td>parental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voronezh</td>
<td>17 August 2004</td>
<td><em><strong>”</strong></em></td>
<td>White plastic ring with black number <strong>202</strong></td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring <strong>A 25410</strong></td>
<td>11 June 2003</td>
<td>parental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldan</td>
<td>17 August 2004</td>
<td><em><strong>”</strong></em></td>
<td>White plastic ring with black number <strong>203</strong></td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring <strong>A 25405</strong></td>
<td>12 May 2003</td>
<td>isolated</td>
<td>Most aggressive towards other cranes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amur</td>
<td>14 October 2004</td>
<td>Astrakhan Nature Reserve</td>
<td>White plastic ring with black number <strong>190</strong></td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring <strong>A 145903</strong></td>
<td>4 June 2003</td>
<td>isolated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kostroma</td>
<td>14 October 2004</td>
<td>Astrakhan Nature Reserve</td>
<td>White Plastic Ring with Black Number <strong>191</strong></td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring <strong>A 145904</strong></td>
<td>24 May 2003</td>
<td>isolated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Reserve</td>
<td>Ring Type</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Group</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gzhat</td>
<td>14 Oct 2004</td>
<td>Astrakhan Nature Reserve</td>
<td>Standard aluminum ring A 145907 and white plastic ring with black number 07 and a satellite transmitter attached to it by the number 19988 placed under the standard ring</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 June 2004</td>
<td>parental</td>
<td>Raised by Siberian Crane parents, very strong and calm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 1. Banding of Siberian Cranes before release into Belozersky Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Yu. Markin

Fig. 2. Two banded young Siberian Cranes at Belozersky Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Yu. Markin

Fig. 3. Siberian Crane banded with plastic band and radio transmitter at Belozersky Refuge. Photo by Yu. Markin
On 23 November, 2004 we received a message from our colleagues from Nizhny Novgorod that a banded injured crane was found in Bashkiria. The number on the band indicated that it was a year-old Siberian Crane named “Moscow” raised at Oka Crane Breeding Center (OCBC).

On 20 August 2004, “Moscow,” together with nine other Siberian Cranes from OCBC, was released into the wild on the territory of Belozersky Refuge (Zakaznik) in the south of Tyumen Region. Three young birds (Aldan, Moscow, and Voronezh) and seven chicks (Alazeya, Vyaz’ma, Klyaz’ma, Shuya, Mezen’, Oshta, and Pasha) were named after the Russian rivers. Except for Aldan, reared in isolation, all the birds were reared by parents.

After the release the young Siberian Cranes had to adjust to local environment. For two weeks they were staying together in one flock at the release site, on the Omelina Island in the Beloye Lake, until being disturbed and scared away. After that the flock divided into two groups, each consisting of both chicks and young birds. Four crane chicks, who knew each other by sight, tried to stay close to Moscow and Aldan, who have been demonstrating...
mutual affection since their time in the Breeding Center. The second group included Voronezh and three chicks, who lived in pens next to each other for two weeks at OCBC.

The reserve staff, who monitored the birds for a month, had left OCBC in the middle of September, before the migration had begun. It is possible that the Siberian Cranes left the Belozersky Wildlife Refuge together with Eurasian Cranes, and, judging by the finding of the injured crane, were moving in the right direction. The distance from the release site to the place where “Moscow” had been found is about 700 km.

Moscow was lucky; the hunter missed the bird and only one small shot hit the head. Though no life-threatening damage had occurred, the bird lost an eye and lots of blood. The bird’s survival instinct led it to people. On 13 November, a woman (Agrafena Kuzich) from Toply Klyuch village in north-eastern Bashkiriya, allowed the wounded crane to feed together with her poultry. Through her relatives she informed the state inspector of the Kiginsk Rayon (District), Flarid Latypov, about the injured crane. The inspector immediately came to the village. The bird was caught, cleaned from mud and clotted blood, fed and given to the Head of the Salavat State Inspection, Il’dar Yakupov, who immediately took the bird to Ufa (capital of Bashkiriya). Here Lyudmila Yedrenkina, an employee of Rosprirodnadzor (=DNR) of Bashkiriia, took care of the Siberian Crane’s future. She found a safe place where the crane could receive help – the Science Museum of the University of Bashkiriia – and informed the Nizhegorodskiy Department of the Russian Bird Conservation Union about the crane.

Moscow spent a month in an outdoor pen of university’s vivarium, which served as an animal shelter to a black kite, a raven, a heron and other birds with gun wounds, thanks to patronage of the University Museum Director, Victor Valuyev. The museum staff made every effort to recover the bird: made the pen comfortable, provided good nutrition and protected from disturbances.

The information on the rescued Siberian Crane reached Crane Working Group of Eurasia and OCBC. OCBC staff, with the financial support of the International Crane Foundation, was able to fly to Ufa to collect Moscow and bring it back to the breeding center. During their visit to Bashkiriia they met with staff of Bashkiriia Rosprirodnadzor and the museum, with teachers and students of the University of Bashkiriia, and talked to mass media representatives about the Siberian Crane and the importance of its conservation. During these conversations it was found that Moscow wasn’t alone when it reached Bashkiriia. There was another Siberian Crane, most likely Aldan, because they kept together at the breeding center and at the release site at Belozersky. On 21 November, a week after Moscow was found, Alfira Altapova from the village of Verkhniye Kigi saw that other crane flying.

Moscow has returned to OCBC and had to spend a month in quarantine and undergo preventative treatment. Moscow is the third offspring of the young pair of Siberian Cranes at OCBC.

The first two were males: one lives now at the Cracid & Crane Breeding and Conservation Center for Birds and Cranes in Belgium; another was released in 2003 into the wild at Kunovat Wildlife Refuge in the north of the Yamalo-Nenetskiy Autonomous District.

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Wintering 2004/05

Siberian Crane Wintering in I. R. of Iran
By Sadegh Sadeghi Zadegan and Ellen Vousalo-Tavakoli

According to the most recent reports by local trappers and the "Siberian Crane Project's Guards" three

Siberian Cranes arrived to Gat Ayaesh Damgah, Fereydoon Kenar Trapping Area, on 24th October 2004 around 11:00 a.m.

During the winter 2004/05, a pair of Siberian Cranes and a single bird stayed separately at Fereydoon Kenar and at Sokhe Rud Damghas, correspondingly.

On 25 February, three wild Siberian Cranes gathered together at Ezbaran Damgag, probably preparing for take-off, although the weather was rather cold for migration.

Some of the Ezbaran trappers were staying at the Damgah over night to protect the Siberian Cranes, just as they did at Sorkhrud Damgah, when the single crane stayed there.

On 27 February, three Siberian Cranes began migration from Ezbaran Damgah at 2:45 p.m. according to information from local guard, Mr Goli. The weather was fine and most other waterfowl left this wintering site on that day.

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Fig. 1. Single Siberian Crane at Sokhrud Damgah in December 2004. Photo by G. Archibald

Fig. 2. Pair of Siberian Cranes at Fereydoon Kenar Damgah in December 2004. Photo by G. Archibald

Fig. 3. Siberian Crane called Suna at the aviary of the Budjah National Park. This bird was unsuccessfully released in Iran in 2003/04. Photo by G. Archibald
Migration in 2004 and 2005

Western Flyway

Record of Siberian Cranes During Spring Migration of 2005 at Astrakhan Nature Reserve

By German Rusanov and Anatoli Kashin

On 31 March, two adult cranes were sighted at Obzhorovo site in the Astrakhan State Nature Reserve. This site is located in the eastern part of Volga River Delta, not far from Kazakhstan border. Birds were observed at close enough range to see that they had no bands. During the follow up check on 3 April, these Siberian Cranes stayed at the same site.

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Eastern Flyway

Siberian Crane Summer Records in Mongolia in 2004

By N. Tseveenmyadag

Three sightings of the Siberian Crane have been registered in Mongolia in 2004. The first sighting occurred 120 km east of Ulaanbaatar City, near Baga-Nur mine. At this part of the Kerulen River Basin several small lakes are located: Guun-Galuut, Ayagyn-Nur and Vaga-Nur Lakes. According to the information provided by biologists J. Batbold and Davaakhuu, four Siberian Cranes arrived at the Ayagyn Lake in May, and had been staying there for the whole summer, leaving it only in the middle of September. Four Siberian Cranes had also been observed at the Guun-Galut Lake in 2002.

The lakes provide a habitat to other rare and endangered species: White-naped Crane (1-2 pairs), Swan Goose (2-3 pairs) and Bar-headed Goose (1-2 pairs). Black Stork, and White-tailed Sea Eagle are quite common there. In September 2003, a Hooded Crane was seen in a flock of Demoiselle Cranes. These lakes are protected at the regional level. Several small tourist centers are operating on the lakes. In summer 2004 a movie about the natural beauty and richness of these lakes was produced and broadcasted on national TV.
The second sighting was registered on the 21 August 2004. Two Siberian Cranes were staying on the small lakes 50 km north-east of Undurkhan City, Kenteisky Aimag (reported by ecologist O. Bumyalakh).

The third sighting was reported in September 2004. According to observations conducted by ornithologists S. Gombobaatar, Adam Rowlands, and Steve Rowlands, two Siberian Cranes were staying at the Duru-Nur Lake (49°40'30"N, 113°20'230"E) in Mongol-Daguur Reserve. Prior to that I had observed one Siberian Crane between 19-29 June 1994 and another – on 2 June 1996.

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Siberian Crane Spring Migration at Momoge N.R., China, in 2004

By He Chunguang, Guan Xiaorui, Yang Bingbing, Yu Guohai and Sun Xiaowei

Momoge National Nature Reserve is a stop over site important for migrating Siberian Cranes. Financed by the ICF, Northeast Normal University and Administrative Bureau of Momoge NNR conducted joint monitoring of migratory trends of Siberian Cranes in spring 2004. From 26 March to 9 May, Siberian Cranes stopped over at Momoge NNR for about 45 days. On 23 April, 778 Siberian Cranes were counted at Taipingshang – the highest record in history of the reserve.

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Yang Bingbing, Yu Guohai, and Sun Xiaowei
Administrative Bureau of Momoge NNR.

Autumn Count of Siberian Cranes in Lindian County

By Guo-Yu-Min

In autumn 2004, we conducted a survey of Siberian Cranes in Lindian, Heilongjiang Province. The results are summarized in Table 1 below.

One family (2 adults and 1 juvenile) separated themselves from the large group and kept high vigilance.

Table 1. The data of Siberian Crane in Lindian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date (Day/Month)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03/10</td>
<td>Reed Farm</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Yinguang Pasture</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/10</td>
<td>Yinguang Pasture</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/10</td>
<td>Yinguang Pasture</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>16/10</td>
<td>Yinguang Pasture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17/10</td>
<td>Yinguang Pasture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guo-Yu-Min

Summer Groups of Siberian Crane found in Inner Mongolia

Li Xiaomin, Sun Zhiyong, Yi Guoliang, Cheng Wanjun, Zhou Jing-Ying, and Wu Bao-Xi
During our three surveys of Siberian Cranes at Tumuji National Nature Reserve in June, September and October, 2004, 15 cranes were sighted staying at Damingpao in the west of the reserve from 12 June to 20 August. The cranes moved to Tumuji Reservoir on 20 August when the Damingpao was nearly dried up. Only from four to nine cranes, hiding in dense reeds at the reservoir, were spotted during each survey. Six cranes were found by Mr. Jim Harris and the authors at Timuji Reservoir on 1 September. Since late September the number of cranes was increasing, an autumn group including 350 more cranes found on 12 October, which contained only 7 juveniles. The group of Siberian Cranes left the reserve in the end of October when the water froze.

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Field work

Observation on Nest Building Activity of Siberian Crane

By Maria Vladimirtseva and Sergei Sleptsov

In the course of our research of breeding biology of the Siberian Crane at Kytalyk Resource Reserve (north-east part of Yakutia) in 2004, we managed to monitor the process of nest building by a pair of cranes at a site nearby Djyukarskoye Lake. This pair has been observed since 1991, when their chick was banded.

In the second decade of June 2004, the pair began building a new nest 300 m away from the old one, which still was under the snow. The new nesting site was free from snow, and to all appearances, the construction of the nest base was finished, because one bird sat on the nest while another continued collecting and bringing building material. The collection process seemed interesting. The crane was moving away from the nest, gathering the tufts of grasses, consistently pulling it out and throwing backwards, on each side of its path, thereby creating a trail of “mowed” grass approximately 10 m long. Then the crane began throwing bunches of pulled grass towards the nest, repeating this route several times until all the building material was gathered near the nest, so that it could be used for construction without any further walks back and forth. All this time the second bird sat in the nest (which suggests the presence of hatching eggs) gathering and arranging the vegetation brought by the partner and tucking it under its body.

For several minutes the cranes switched places, and the bird that previously sat in the nest was now bringing the “mowed” vegetation to the nest.

During the next shift the first crane, more active in the nest-building process, made another “mowed” grass path on the opposite side of the nest.

While throwing the grass backwards the cranes didn’t change the position of the body, just bended the neck and the head backwards at each throw.

Therefore, collecting the nest-building material, the Siberian Cranes used two interconnected techniques: vegetation “mowing” and throwing the “mowed” vegetation towards the nest.

One more recently built nest has been discovered to the east of the Banyl Lake, in an unusual for the Siberian Crane habitat – 70 m away from the “bulgunnyakh” – a knoll of the ground heave. Traces of the vegetation pulled out close to the nest were evenly arranged so that the nest was sitting in the middle of the “mowed” area.

According to our observations, Siberian Cranes in Yakutia sometimes build temporary nests within their nesting territory, if the weather conditions prevent them from using old, permanent nest.

It is possible that the discovered nests belong to such type of constructions.

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For centuries, three crane species – the Siberian, the Eurasian and the Demoiselle Cranes – pass during their migration through Turkmenistan vast lands.

The Eurasian Cranes are most numerous among these birds. Their migration routes mostly follow the rivers – Amu Darya, Karamu Darya, Murgaba, Tedjen and also the Caspian shore line. The most noticeable migration occurs over the foothills of East Kopetdag and the valley of Tedgen River.

Eurasian Cranes spend some time en route at staging areas. They often remain at these areas for a long time. Recent surveys show that some cranes now tend to spend winter in the south of Turkmenistan.

Migration strategy of the endangered Siberian Crane is very close to the Eurasian Crane’s. Sometimes Siberian Cranes migrate together with the flocks of Eurasian Cranes.

For stopovers cranes choose valleys and agricultural areas and here the interests of cranes and people clash. While for cranes the field with winter crops is a favorite feeding place, for farmers it is their livelihood. Our long-term observations on the migration route have shown that survival of birds at stopovers depends mostly on the people’s attitude toward them.

One of the ways to promote reconciliation between people and cranes is to show the former the new, unusual side of the familiar birds. It is necessary to let people discover their unique value and how vulnerable the migrating birds are to changes in their breeding, stopover and wintering habitats – how vulnerable they are to the threats of civilization! We have to evoke the real admiration and respect for these beautiful creations. Then the real interest will come along with a wish to defend and help the birds.

For this purpose, in January 2005 the ecological action “Crane Day” was held for the first time in Turkmenistan, supported by ICF and the Crane Working Group of Eurasia (CWGE).

This event took place in rural districts where the birds usually spend winter or stop to rest during migration.

Among the Crane Day activities were in-door lectures and an excursion to the fields where the wintering cranes were most likely to be seen. This year action was designed for the middle school students.

Children of this age are more receptive and more open to everything new and like to show good will. Very soon they will become the equal members of local communities. Their opinion will matter when decisions will be made. Therefore, it is very important to stimulate in them a strong interest to cranes and a desire to protect these birds while they are still young.

In our lectures, we told about cranes that are familiar to children since these children live in the area where they can see these cranes in the wild. We paid special attention in our lectures to cranes’ way of life, their behavior and the malleability to the environment. The big interest has been arisen when we told how cranes struggle for survival. This story has always created a lot of questions and discussions and we used these discussions to draw pictures of nature from a different, unfamiliar side.

We have placed the emphasis in our lectures on the fact that this action has taken place in all countries of the Siberian Crane range, which helped the students to feel special connection between people of different nationalities. The children also felt proud that their school activity became an event of not only national but of the international significance.
In addition, in our lectures we have used the Turkmenistan folk tales and proverbs about cranes. Traditionally people see a crane as a sacred bird; there are many folk ceremonies related to this bird.

After lectures, we arranged games and quizzes, offering children questions about cranes. Some questions could be answered by remembering the lecture material. These activities helped students better understand the information from the lectures and reinforce their knowledge about cranes.

All participants received prizes – booklets about the nature of Turkmenistan, posters, stickers and badges prepared by CWGE. The ICF’s Siberian Crane poster with the artwork by the famous Canadian artist Robert Bateman aroused the biggest interest.

Later we led a tour to the nearest marsh where everybody could see a crane habitat through binoculars.

The celebration of The Crane Day in 2005 has taken place in three settlements in Tedgen valley: Saragt, Tedgen, and Gannaly with students of 5-7th grades. The teachers of biology and forestry and nature reserve staff also participated. As a result, the local administration asked us to conduct such festivity regularly. The results of the event were published in the national press in Turkmen and Russian languages.

In the future we are planning to extend the Crane Day celebration to settlements in river valleys of Murgaba and Amu Darya.

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Education Activities in Uzbekistan

By Yevgenia Lanovenko

Three species of cranes can be sighted on the flyway in Uzbekistan – the Eurasian, the Demoiselle and the endangered Siberian Crane. The Eurasian Crane spends winter in the south of the republic.

Under the project “Ecological research and monitoring of Eurasian Crane wintering in the Southern Uzbekistan,” implemented by Uzbekistan Crane Working Group with the financial support from the International Crane Foundation (ICF), crane education activities have been carried out among the local population. We paid special attention to these activities as we strongly believe in the importance of educating the local people about how unique is the wintering of the Eurasian Crane so close to their villages and settlements, and involving them in conservation of these beautiful birds. The possibility of the Siberian Crane occurrences at these wintering grounds adds urgency to our work. For wider and more effective awareness-rising on crane conservation we chose several target groups.

The first group we were working with for the longest period of time includes the decision-makers at the oblast (province) level. Soon after the wintering of Eurasian Cranes had been discovered in Uzbekistan, we met with the chief of Surkhandar’ya Oblast Committee on Nature Conservation and the commanding officer of the border guard subdivision of the frontier territory where the cranes were wintering. We
enjoyed their understanding and support in solving a number of administrative issues during our research work in 2004.

We also met with the heads of regional and local governmental agencies. Such meetings were organized with two goals: 1) to inform local authorities of the unique wintering place of waterbirds and the Eurasian Crane on the territory under their jurisdiction and to raise in their minds the status of this territory for wildlife and, in particular, crane conservation; 2) to receive the required information and support to our cranes conservation campaign aimed at local communities.

The second target group was people responsible for the protection of the territory where the cranes and other waterbirds spend winter. This group included staff of the Regional Committee on Nature Conservation and the senior officers of the border guards. In March, when crane migration has begun, we organized special lectures for this group, during which we showed them the ICF-produced videofilm about the Siberian Crane. In spring 2004, on our request the game inspectors observed migration of the cranes in the vicinity of Termez and Djarkurgan cities; their data helped us to determine the optimal timing for our spring field research.

We also organized a special seminar for members of Termez and Djarkurgan hunting societies, where we also demonstrated the videofilm and had an open conversation about crane conservation. The posters-questionnaires “We need you help” were distributed among those who would be observing crane migration. After the meeting we organized a cooperative survey of the stopover sites of migrating cranes in the vicinity of Djarkurgan City.

Our third target group were farmers and other local residents living close to the crane wintering sites. We held meetings with the farmers and their seasonal workers during the busy growing season as well as during the ecological awareness action “Crane Day”. Special attention at those meetings was given to the conflict of interests between farmers and birds and the ways of solving this issue to the mutual benefit.

A Crane Day celebration was also organized at school #21 in Gagarino settlement, a couple of kilometers away from the crane wintering site. Local authorities, Rayon (District) Department of Education and local school teachers had greatly contributed to this event. Children from six to ten grades participated in the celebration, as well as their parents and teachers, local farmers and entrepreneurs, and representatives of rural administration. We conducted joint and separate workshops for children and adults. All the participants watched the film about the Siberian Crane with great interest. Having already been taught about cranes the children were very active. After the main program the children who showed the greatest interest, joined us and the former school director to observe the cranes from the roof of the school building. The view to Amudar'ya River and crop fields by the river from there is very beautiful. The enthusiastic youngsters watched the cranes through the binoculars and a telescope, while the birds were feeding or resting in the fields, or flying out to the river sand bars to drink.

Fig. 1. Training in crane and wetlands conservation for border guards. Photo by Ye. Lanovenko

Fig. 2. Children observe wetlands from the school roof. Photo by Ye. Lanovenko
Then we visited the school for the first time, following the recommendation of the regional authorities, we were astounded with its poor means. At art classes, children draw pictures mostly with pens on notebook pages. As we hadn’t found good stationary at the local shop, during our next visit we brought sketch books, paint, and color pencils and markers. Both children and teachers were happy with these presents and later rewarded us with a wonderful exhibit of crane art. The jury awarded two winners of the art contest with special prizes – photo cameras. Other participants received T-shirts with cranes image.

During our awareness campaign we used materials prepared by the Crane Working Group of Eurasia (flyers, stickers, badges and bookmarks). Also, the Uzbekistan Crane Working Group developed special posters-questionnaires “We Need Your Help,” posters “Features that distinct cranes from similar-looking species” and “The Asian Crane Flyway.” We also used the ICF-produced film “Saving Cranes” and the Siberian Crane poster with the art work by the famous Canadian artist Robert M. Bateman. The information materials on crane migration in Pakistan and Afghanistan, provided by the ICF co-founder George Archibald, proved valuable during the preparation of the lecture on Central Asian Flyway.

These ecological awareness activities became possible due to the financial support of the International Crane Foundation and Windway Foundation, as well as personal assistance of George Archibald, Claire Mirande and Elena Ilyashenko.

Uzbekistan Crane Working Group expresses their gratitude to all people contributed to the implementation of this fascinating and vitally important work.

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Meetings

Fifth Meeting of the Siberian Crane Range States, Moscow, Russian Federation, 26-29 April 2004
By Douglas Hykle, Claire Mirande, and K.S Gopi Sundar

The Fifth Meeting of Signatory States to the Convention for Migratory Species (CMS) Siberian Crane Memorandum of Understanding concluded successfully on 29 April 2004 in Moscow with the adoption of revised Conservation Plans for the Western, Central and Eastern populations of this endangered species.
Representatives of ten of the eleven Range States, together with specialists from numerous scientific institutes and non-governmental organizations, attended the meeting, which was hosted by the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and organized by the International Crane Foundation (ICF) on behalf of CMS.

The Meeting agreed on the establishment of a network of sites critical for Siberian Cranes of the Western and Central Flyways, which will promote training, capacity-building, exchange programmes, education and public awareness, site monitoring, and information exchange. The site network will be coordinated with related initiatives including the Central Asian Flyway project, the North East Asia Crane Site Network, the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement GEF Project, and the GEF Econet project.

It was recognized that the recovery of both the Western and Central populations, which have collapsed over the past two decades, depends on reducing high hunting pressure. The meeting identified strategies for more effective enforcement of hunting regulations and techniques for educating hunters. Efforts in these flyways will also focus on innovative reintroduction methods that will be applied after controlling the problem of hunting. Taking a cue from successful efforts by Operation Migration and other partners to reintroduce Whooping cranes in North America, by training young birds to follow ultra light aircraft, researchers in Russia plan to adapt the methodology for use with hang-gliders in coming years.
The meeting heard some positive news from Western and Central Asian States. A captive-reared Siberian Crane was successfully released for the first time on the wintering grounds in Iran. Satellite telemetry followed the bird’s migration to Dagestan where the signal stopped. Important new migration sites have been recently identified in both of these countries. At the meeting, colleagues from Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Turkmenistan agreed to develop a joint coordinated survey to identify potential alternate wintering sites along their border areas. Laws against crane hunting have been adopted by some Range States, and there is considerable effort by other States to undertake similar initiatives. Crane Working Groups of Eurasia have been initiated in most of the Range States to undertake many of the responsibilities, including an active role in conducting awareness programmes, and the other States will initiate such Groups soon.

Participants gave enthusiastic accounts of a variety of creative programmes to increase awareness and involve local communities. Highly successful and inspiring Crane Day celebrations initiated by Crane Working Group of Eurasia were held in several countries in 2002-2003, and will now be conducted in all the Range States.

The remaining Eastern population in China is far more numerous at an estimated 3,000 birds, although recent mid-winter counts at Poyang Lake suggest that the population may number as many as 4,000 birds. Under the UNEP-GEF Siberian Crane wetland project, protection has expanded to 15 county protection stations around the greater Poyang Lake Basin. A team of hydrologists plans to tackle water management issues at migration resting areas in northeast China including the Zhalong and Xianghai National Nature Reserves.

During the meeting of Signatory States, the representative of Mongolia signed the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of his Government, and two nongovernmental organizations – the Cracid and Crane Breeding and Conservation Centre (CBCC, Belgium) and Wetlands International – were invited to join the MoU as cooperating partners.

The CMS Secretariat will circulate the report of the present meeting to interested parties after it has been finalized by ICF in the coming months. Tentative plans were made to review progress again in mid-2006, with Kazakhstan and Pakistan suggested as possible meeting venues.

Note: The Siberian Crane Memorandum of Understanding provided the impetus for the development of a multi-country UNEP-GEF wetland and waterbird conservation project valued at nearly USD 23 million, which is now being implemented in China, Iran and Russia, with Kazakhstan to participate shortly.

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Fig. 6. Siberian Crane Central Flyway (from left to right – from Russia through Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan to India). Photo by G. Archibald.
The third project steering committee meeting was held in the Grand Hotel, in the city of Ramsar overlooking the southern shore of the Caspian Sea. Steeped in history, this magnificent building once belonged to the Shah of Iran, and in 1971 provided the venue for the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat – now known throughout the world as the Ramsar Convention. It was therefore a fitting venue for discussions on a project which aims to promote the conservation of a network of internationally important wetlands in Asia.

The meeting was hosted by Iran’s Department of Environment, organized by the project’s Regional Coordination Unit, and attended by 31 participants representing all four project countries, plus observers from Azerbaijan and Iran. Much of the meeting was procedural, with review of annual reports for 2004, review and approval of annual workplans for 2005, plans for the project’s mid term review, and additions and revisions to the project’s Operations Manual. Operational issues were also discussed and resolved as far as possible.

The design for a regional database system was presented and approved, after it was agreed that there would be joint ownership of data during the project period, with the project partners sharing the creation of the database and information, and after completion of the project each country would receive a complete copy of the data and the right to use it.

Preliminary results of the Inter-sessional Working Group established at the Fifth Meeting of the Range States to the CMS MoU on the Siberian Crane were presented and discussed. The meeting agreed on a title for the new site network – the West/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane (and other waterbirds). The Working Group’s proposals for site selection criteria and nomination requirements were
refined and goals for follow up identified. The proposals will next be discussed at a special session of CMS MoU Range States during the Central Asian Flyway meeting (New Delhi, June 2005)

The meeting also identified twinning and staff exchange goals between sites, pending confirmation of available budgets, with planned participation of Chinese NCU and site staff in PTT marking in Kytau in August 2005, and Yakutian project staff participating in ground surveys in NE China in spring 2006. For the Western flyway, an exchange visit between Naurzum NR in Kazakhstan and Belozersky Zakaznik in Tyumen was discussed. Three to four PTTs will be deployed on Siberian Cranes in August 2005 in Yakutia, and one PTT is available for a wild Siberian Crane in Iran.

The steering committee agreed to support a documentary film on Siberian Cranes proposed by the US company WGBH through ICF. Also, a proposal for an exhibition presented by Sterkh Foundation was supported as a resource for the benefit of the whole project. Countries will consider provision of materials for this exhibition, which is mobile.

The observers from Azerbaijan presented their activities and needs. The meeting agreed to assist them to develop a GEF Medium Sized Project proposal for activities which would link with other SCWP countries and fill gaps in flyway coordination.

The meeting was informed about SCWP activities at Fereydoon Kenar including a study of duck-trapping and a sustainable agriculture pilot project, Mazandaran Crane Conservation Association activities in the same area, and the status of the UNDP/GEF Iranian Wetlands Conservation Project. An excursion to Bujagh National Park (SCWP project site) was organized for the participants by DOE.

Kazakhstan offered to host the fourth project steering committee meeting in December 2005, with an alternate offer from Azerbaijan. Arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

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At the previous working group meetings of the North East Asian Site Network, it has been agreed that the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project (UNEP/GEF SCWP) should work closely with the Crane Network, particularly regarding conservation of the eastern population.

Partly because of this, or because of my other commitment to the BirdLife International Red Data Book and Important Bird Area programmes, I was invited to be one of the facilitator of a regional training workshop on data management. My duty was to present the Threatened Birds of Asia and Important Birds Area in Asia. Other facilitators to the training course included Elena Ilyashenko and Mikhail Stishov (UNEP/GEF SCWP), Crawford Prentice and Su Liying (International Crane Foundation), Lieuwe Haanstra, Irina Onufrenya and David Li (Wetlands International), and Sergey Yerokhov (Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan). The workshop was organized by the adorable couple of Tatiana Bragina and Yevgeny Bragin, two of the leading conservationists and scientists in Kazakhstan.

The objectives of the training workshop were to ensure that the main national contacts along the project flyways of the Siberian Cranes:

- understand and provide input to the design of the project’s database system and its data requirements;
- are familiar with the principle existing waterbird monitoring schemes in the region and are able to participate in these schemes;
- have a basic understanding of how to manage data with the database programmes used by the project;
- understand the procedures for communicating these data for their wider application for international conservation monitoring and assessment purposes;
- are able to actively participate as part of a flyway network for waterbird monitoring.

Fig. 1. Participants of the Regional Training Workshop under UNEP/GEF SCWP in Kostanay, Kazakhstan. Photo by Sadegh S. Zadegan

Fig. 2. Opening session of the training workshop with participation of local governmental representatives and students and mentors of Kostanay Pedagogical Institute. Photo by C. Prentice

Fig. 3. Training workshop in Kostanay. Photo by Su Liying

Fig. 4. Crane count in the fields near Zharsor Lake – GEF Project Site. Photo by T. Bragina
The training workshop was held at the Kostanay Pedagogical Institute, in Kostanay of northern Kazakhstan from 23 September to 1 October 2004. Eleven crane specialists from Siberian Crane sites from Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation (including western Siberia and the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) attended the training workshop. The National Bird Banding Center in China was invited but unfortunately due the visa problem could not attend the workshop.

A field trip to Naurzum Nature Reserve and Zharsor-Urkash Refuge was organized from 27 to 29 September. These sites are important to migratory cranes, and are potential migratory sites to the western population of the Siberian Cranes. To see a Siberian Crane in the field would be a very difficult task, but nevertheless Tatiana and Yevgeny showed us thousands of Eurasian Cranes on migration, and many other waterbirds including the threatened Dalmatian Pelicans.

The training workshop was not only successful in provide new information and technological aids to Siberian Crane workers of different populations, it also brought people from different countries closer together. This is vital for the cooperation amongst different countries to save this critically endangered species. I am very grateful to many people who organized the workshop, particularly to Tatiana and Yevgeny.

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Training on Siberian Crane Memorandum Under the CMS Memorandum of Understanding

By Yevgenia Lanovenko

On June 15, 2004 a training seminar on the international agreement on the Siberian Crane conservation “Current Status of the Species and Role of Uzbekistan in Conservation of the Central Population” was held in Tashkent. The training was a part of Skills Improvement Programme for workers of regional committees for nature conservation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Twenty six representatives from seven regional committees (Tashkentkiy, Djizakhskiy, Khorezmskiy, Bukharskiy, Samarkandskiy, Kashkadar’inskiy and Surkhandar’inskiy) participated in the seminar, as well as some chiefs of oblast (province) and rayon (district) game management offices.

The training programme included the introduction to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and Memorandum on Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane. The participants also received information on the current status of three populations of the Siberian Crane and the major efforts undertaken to save these birds. The following materials have been used as visual aids: the poster of the Russian Bird Conservation Union and BirdLife International “Migratory Birds of Russia – Linking Continents”, published with the support of the Netherlands Government; maps of the Siberian Crane sightings in Uzbekistan, prepared by the Uzbekistan Crane Working Group; map of the Siberian Crane Central Asia flyway according to the data sent by satellite transmitters. Posters with the Siberian Crane image by the Canadian artist Robert Bateman were distributed during the training, as well as questionnaires, developed by the Uzbekistan Crane Working Group to collect information on migrations of Siberian, Eurasian, and Demoiselle Cranes in the fall of 2004.

For more information:

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