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KORIE M. KLINK
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INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION SPONSORED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: CONSERVATION OF THE CUBAN SANDHILL CRANE

KORIE M. KLINK. International Crane Foundation, E11376 Shady Lane Road Baraboo, WI 53913 USA

Abstract: The International Crane Foundation (ICF) has supported crane conservation, education and research activities in Cuba since 1995. Groups of American educators and researchers visit the island, contributing to annual crane festivals, school activities, survey work, assessments and cross-cultural communication. The goals of ICF’s environmental education program in Cuba are to: Disseminate information about ICF and crane conservation to American and Cuban educators and students, and to empower them to carry on ICF’s mission in their classrooms and communities; Participate actively in the Cuban Crane Festival while interacting with and supporting Cuban educators, biologists, and professionals; Develop activities, educational programs and resources focusing on crane ecology and conservation; Plan and implement student and teacher workshops to take place in Cuba; and Coordinate an international art exchange between American school children and Cuban school children, engaging students in the arts and natural sciences.

Key words: Cuba, Cuban sandhill crane, Grus canadensis nesiotes