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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKSHOP

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PREFACE

In 1975 a group of North American crane researchers and managers convened a workshop at the fledgling International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin. At the end they agreed to publish the proceedings of the workshop and to reconvene in 3 years to continue to share information, ideas, and support. Workshops followed in 1978 (Rockport, Texas), 1981 (Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming), 1985 (Grand Island, Nebraska), and 1988 (Kissimmee Prairie, Florida). At the Florida meeting this loose-knit group agreed to form the North American Crane Working Group (NACWG), an organization of "professional biologists, aviculturists, land managers, and other interested individuals dedicated to the conservation of cranes and their habitats in North America." Board members elected to 3-year terms were Steven Balzano, Alfred Grewe, Brian Johns, Gary Lingle (Chief Executive Officer), Steve Nesbitt, Dale Stahlecker, and Richard Urbanek. The 1991 North American Crane Workshop in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, was the second official gathering of this group and the first workshop sponsored by NACWG. Board members elected to 3-year terms in 1991 were Mary Anne Bishop, Wendy Brown (CEO), Scott Hereford, Gary Lingle, Steve Nesbitt, Glenn Olsen, and Richard Urbanek.

NACWG serves as a liaison for information exchange through a semi-annual newsletter (The Unison Call), sponsors the North American Crane Workshop every 3–4 years and publishes its proceedings, addresses conservation issues affecting cranes and their habitats, promotes appropriate research on crane conservation and management, and promotes a better understanding and appreciation of cranes and their habitats among the general public. The NACWG board and membership wish to express their appreciation to the Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust for contributing office space and equipment, thereby providing an unofficial base of operations for the Working Group for at least the first 3 years of our existence.

The proceedings of previous crane workshops have been valuable resources for crane researchers and managers. With each succeeding workshop the quality of presentations and manuscripts has improved. In 1991 the NACWG Board of Directors instituted several policies to further improve the quality of the Proceedings. They solicited volunteers from the group to act as Associate Editors for the proceedings of the 1991 meeting. Each Associate Editor was responsible for the review of manuscripts submitted for his or her session and was required to obtain an additional review by an outside referee. They reviewed not only the papers published herein, but additional papers that were ultimately rejected or were not resubmitted or completed. A final review of each manuscript was made by the Layout and Final Review Editors. The board also authorized the Coordinating Editor to set reasonable deadlines so that the Proceedings could be published in a timely manner. These policies have moved the Crane Workshop Proceedings closer to the rigorous quality requirements of professional scientific journals.

As Coordinating Editor, I wish to thank each Associate Editor for many hours of editorial effort. We all thank the following persons who served as referees:

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Richard P. Urbanek labored long and hard to bring copy to journal quality. Theodore A. Bookhout provided valuable editorial advice and assistance. The people at Guynes Printing Company were kind and gracious and produced a handsome volume. Without the efforts of all involved, these Proceedings would not have been possible. Finally, because the quality and commitment of the North American Crane Working Group appear to be substantial and long-lived, the Proceedings of the North American Crane Workshop become a numbered series with this publication.

Dale W. Stahlecker
April 1992
## CONTENTS

### PREFACE

- **CONSERVATION ISSUES**
  - Managing Nature Reserves for Cranes in China
  - The Plight of Cranes: A Case Study for Conserving Biodiversity
  - Whooping Cranes in Southwest Louisiana: History and Human Attitudes
  - Population Status, Hunting Regulations, Hunting Activity, and Harvests of Mid-Continent Sandhill Cranes
  - History and Economic Impact of Crane-Watching in Central Nebraska

### TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES

- Gender Prediction from Body Measurements of Two Subspecies of Sandhill Cranes
- Capturing Whooping Cranes and Sandhill Cranes by Night-Lighting
- Behavior of Sandhill Cranes Harnessed with Different Satellite Transmitters
- Progress in Satellite Tracking Cranes

### MIGRATION AND POPULATIONS

- Using National Wetlands Inventory Maps to Quantify Whooping Crane Stopover Habitat in Oklahoma
- Breeding Biology of Greater Sandhill Cranes on the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area, Minnesota
- Black-Necked Cranes Nesting in Tibet Autonomous Region, China

### HABITAT USE

- Sandhill Crane Habitat Use in Northeastern Utah and Southwestern Wyoming
- Food and Feeding Habits of Released Florida Sandhill Cranes
- Characteristics of Whooping Crane Roost Sites in the Platte River
BEHAVIOR .......................................................... 95

UNUSUAL MOVEMENTS AND BEHAVIORS OF COLOR-BANDED WHOOPING CRANES DURING WINTER ....Thomas V. Stehn 95

BEHAVIOR OF WHOOPING CRANES DURING INITIATION OF MIGRATION .......... Thomas V. Stehn 102

TEMPORAL PATTERNS OF SANDHILL CRANE ROOST SITE USE IN THE PLATTE RIVER ........ Bradley S. Norling, Stanley H. Anderson, and Wayne A. Hubert 106

SOCIAL PREFERENCE OF FOUR CROSS-FOSTER REARED SANDHILL CRANES ........ Thomas A. Mahan and Brenda S. Simmers 114

CAPTIVE PROPAGATION AND RELEASE ................................................. 120

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ISOLATION-REARING/GENTLE RELEASE PROCEDURE FOR REINTRODUCING MIGRATORY CRANES .................. Richard P. Urbanek and Theodore A. Bookhout 120

WINTER RELEASE OF ISOLATION-REARED GREATER SANDHILL CRANES IN SOUTH TEXAS ........ Meenakshi Nagendran 131


POPULATION RECOVERY OF THE WHOOPING CRANE WITH EMPHASIS ON REINTRODUCTION EFFORTS: PAST AND FUTURE .............. David H. Ellis, James C. Lewis, George F. Gee, and Dwight G. Smith 142

SEXUAL SIZE DIMORPHISM AND SIZE INDICES OF SIX SPECIES OF CAPTIVE CRANES AT THE INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION ........... Scott Swengel 151

MORTALITY FACTORS ................................................................. 159

CONTAMINANTS IN HABITAT, TISSUES, AND EGGS OF WHOOPING CRANES ........... James C. Lewis, Roderick C. Drewien, Ernie Kuyt, and Charlie Sanchez, Jr. 159

CONTAMINANT RESIDUES IN SANDHILL CRANES KILLED UPON STRIKING POWERLINES IN CENTRAL NEBASKA ................................................ Timothy E. Fannin 166

NOTES .............................................................. 171

IDENTIFICATION OF SEGREGATING HAPLOTYPES OF THE MAJOR HISTOCOMPATIBILITY COMPLEX IN CRANES ............... Susan I. Jarvi, George F. Gee, W. Elwood Briles, and Marcia M. Miller 171

SATELLITE TELEMETRY REVEALS WINTER HOME OF EURASIAN CRANE FROM NORTHEASTERN SIBERIA ............. David H. Ellis, Yuri M. Markin, Charles H. Vermillion, Charles M. Hoisington, Alexander G. Sorokin, and Grey W. Pendleton 172

ABSTRACTS ................................................................. 173

SATELLITE TRACKING OF A GREATER SANDHILL CRANE .................. Meenakshi Nagendran 173

SANDHILL CRANE SURVEYS IN THE NORTHERN INTERIOR HIGHLANDS OF MEXICO .......................... Roderick C. Drewien, Wendy M. Brown, and Elwood G. Bizeau 174

SANDHILL CRANES IN THE MID-PECOS VALLEY OF EASTERN NEW MEXICO, 1989 – 91 .......................... James B. Montgomery, Jr. 174

HABITAT USE BY FLORIDA SANDHILL CRANES ON THE KISSIMMEE PRAIRIE IN CENTRAL FLORIDA .................. Mary Anne Bishop 175

THE ECOLOGY OF NATIVE GRASSLAND MACROINVERTEBRATES AND FEEDING ECOLOGY OF SANDHILL CRANES .................................................................................. Craig A. Davis and Paul A. Vohs 175

INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION AND SEX DETERMINATION OF WHOOPING CRANES BY ANALYSIS OF VOCALIZATIONS .................................................. Glenn Carlson 176

WHOOPING CRANE RESPONSE TO DISTURBANCES AT THE ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ...... Thomas E. Lewis and R. Douglas Slack 176

MARKING POWER LINES TO REDUCE AVIAN COLLISION MORTALITY IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY, COLORADO .................................................................................. Wendy M. Brown and Roderick C. Drewien 177

BEHAVIOR OF SANDHILL CRANES NEAR POWERLINES MARKED WITH YELLOW AVIATION BALLS ........ Anne E. Morkill and Stanley H. Anderson 177

WORKSHOP RESOLUTIONS .......................... 178