

January 1983

Cranes of the World: ORIGINS OF SCIENTIFIC AND VERNACULAR NAMES OF CRANES

Paul A. Johnsgard

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, pajohnsgard@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/bioscicranes>



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#)

Johnsgard, Paul A., "Cranes of the World: ORIGINS OF SCIENTIFIC AND VERNACULAR NAMES OF CRANES" (1983). *Cranes of the World*, by Paul Johnsgard. 23.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/bioscicranes/23>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Papers in the Biological Sciences at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Cranes of the World*, by Paul Johnsgard by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

ORIGINS OF SCIENTIFIC AND VERNACULAR NAMES OF CRANES

Anthropoides—from the Greek *anthropos*, a man, and *oides*, having the likeness of.

paradisea—from the Greek *paradeisos*, paradise. The vernacular name Stanley crane is based on "*Anthropoides stanleyanus*" proposed by Vigors in 1826, apparently in honor of E.S. Stanley, who was the president of the Zoological Society of London from 1831 to 1851.

virgo—from Latin, a maiden. The vernacular name demoiselle is French, a damsel.

Balearica—of the Balearic Islands, in the Mediterranean.

pavonina—from the Latin *pavo*, a peacock.

p. ceciliae—After Lady William Cecil, who donated to the Zoological Society of London the live specimens on which the form's description was based.

p. gibbericeps—from the Latin *gibber*, a hump, and *ceps*, head.

p. regulorum—from Latin, pertaining to royalty.

Bugetanus—from the Greek *bous*, an ox or bull, and *geranus*, a crane.

carunculatus—from the Latin *caruncula*, a caruncle or small piece of flesh.

leucogeranus—from the Latin *leukon*, white, and *geranos*, a crane.

Grus—from Latin, a kind of bird, especially a crane.

The vernacular name crane may have originally been derived from the Greek *geranos*, and more recently is from the Old English "cran." The Old German *Kraen* and the Danish *trane* are also related names.

americanus—of America. The vernacular name whooping crane is originally from the cry "houp," to command a dog or horse.

antigone—named (by Linnaeus) for the daughter of Oedipus, who hanged herself (presumably in reference to the species' bare neck skin). The vernacular name sarus is from the local Hindi name, *sarus*.

a. argentea—from the Latin, *argenteus*, silvery.

a. sharpei—after R.B. Sharpe, English ornithologist.

canadensis—of Canada.

c. nesiotus—from Greek, an islander.

c. pratensis—from Latin, pertaining to a meadow.

c. pulla—from Latin, pertaining to young animals.

c. rowani—after William Rowan, Canadian ornithologist.

c. tabida—from the Latin *tabidus*, shrinking or wasting away.

grus—see *Grus* above. It is believed that *grus* might refer to the hollow, guttural or grunting voice of most cranes.

g. lilfordi—after Lord T. L. Lilford, English naturalist.

japonensis—of Japan.

monachus—from the Greek *monachos*, solitary, a monk. The vernacular name hooded crane also refers to the monklike plumage pattern.

nigricollis—from the Latin *niger*, black, and *collum*, neck.

rubicundus—from Latin, becoming or remaining red. The vernacular name brolga is from the aboriginal name, buralga.

r. argentea—from the Latin *argenteus*, silvery.

vipio—from Latin, a kind of bird, especially a small crane.