


2010

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ELEVENTH NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKSHOP: Preface and Contents

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FRONTISPIECE. Ernie Kuyt, retired biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service, was awarded the fifth L. H. Walkinshaw Crane Conservation Award on 27 September 2008 in Lake Delton, Wisconsin. Ernie had a varied career in wildlife which included over 25 years of research on whooping cranes on their breeding grounds. He graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1957 and began working on caribou with the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources. He moved to the Canadian Wildlife Service in 1961 and began research into predator-prey relationships between wolves and barren-ground caribou. Ernie obtained his M.A. on wolf ecology from the University of Saskatchewan in 1970. From 1965 until 1990 he was the lead biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service's whooping crane recovery project, and was involved in developing a strategy of inter-nest exchange of eggs to enhance productivity of the cranes. Ernie also led the color banding of juvenile whooping cranes and followed radio-marked cranes on their 4,000-km long migration between breeding grounds and wintering grounds. Ernie banded almost 11,000 birds of over 120 species, including 132 whooping cranes. Ernie not only worked with wildlife, he also rigorously reported on his findings. An avid and prolific writer, he published almost 90 papers, over 30 of these were on the whooping crane. He coauthored another dozen papers and authored or coauthored over 50 internal reports for the CWS. Ernie was recognized previously for his research on whooping cranes including being the recipient of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association's Honor Award. In addition the Order of Canada was presented to Mr. Kuyt on 21 April 1993 for his dedication to preserving the beauty and diversity of Canada's natural environment. Sadly, Ernie passed away unexpectedly on 21 May 2010. Up until his passing he continued his involvement in natural history and avidly followed the progress of whooping crane recovery. Ernie is survived by his wife Elsie, daughter Pamela (Mike) Stroh, and son Jonathan (photo Wood Buffalo National Park, ca. 1975).

Front cover: Reintroduced whooping cranes on Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Wisconsin. Juveniles, subadults, and adult pair with their fledged chick, October 2006, by Richard Urbanek, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Back cover: Scenes from the Eleventh Workshop in Wisconsin Dells and cranes of Wisconsin by Marty Folk, Tom Lynn, Steven E. Landfried Photography 2008, and Marianne Wellington.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ELEVENTH NORTH AMERICAN
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**23-27 September 2008
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, USA**

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BARRY K. HARTUP

Assistant Editor

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PREFACE

The North American Crane Working Group (NACWG) is an organization of professional biologists, aviculturists, land managers, and other interested individuals dedicated to the conservation of cranes and their habitats in North America. Our group meets approximately every 3 years to exchange new information on research and conservation of sandhill and whooping cranes and occasionally reports from abroad. Our meeting in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, 23-27 September 2008, was no exception. The workshop was ably organized by Tom Hoffman, the scientific program was well-constructed by Jane Austin, and George Archibald and Richard Urbanek helped to bring together a memorable field day in central Wisconsin. The NACWG Board of Directors consisted of President Glenn Olsen, Vice President Felipe Chavez-Ramirez, Secretary Tracy Grazia, Treasurer Tom Hoffman, Jane Austin, Marilyn Spalding, and Richard Urbanek. Our technical sessions spanned 2 days and included presentation of 38 scientific talks and 16 posters. The papers included in this volume, with some exceptions, were presented at the workshop. The papers submitted for publication in the Proceedings are peer-reviewed according to scientific journal standards. We thank the following referees for their contribution to the quality of this volume:

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Barry K. Hartup, Editor
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CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| PREFACE | iii |
| HABITAT USE | 1 |
| SANDHILL CRANES OF COASTAL BRITISH COLUMBIA: RESULTS OF HELICOPTER SURVEYS AND PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS OF HABITAT USE..... Krista Roessingh and Briony Penn | 1 |
| BEHAVIOR AND HABITAT USE OF GREATER SANDHILL CRANES WINTERING IN EAST TENNESSEE..... David A. Aborn | 9 |
| MANAGEMENT AND HARVEST | 15 |
| POSSIBLE COMPETITION BETWEEN WATERFOWL AND SANDHILL CRANES AT HIWASSEE WILDLIFE REFUGE, TENNESSEE..... David A. Aborn | 15 |
| SUMMARY OF SANDHILL CRANE SPORT HARVEST IN CANADA 1975-2006 | 22 |
| Adrianna C. Araya, Kammie L. Kruse, and Keith D. Warner | |
| SUMMARY OF SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING SEASONS IN KANSAS 1993-2007 | 31 |
| David E. Sharp, Helen M. Hands, James A. Dubovsky, and John E. Cornely | |
| MIGRATION AND WINTERING BIOLOGY | 40 |
| CHANGES IN WINTER WHOOPING CRANE TERRITORIES AND RANGE 1950-2006 | 40 |
| Thomas V. Stehn and Felipe Prieto | |
| MIGRATION PATTERNS AND MOVEMENTS OF SANDHILL CRANES WINTERING IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA | 57 |
| Sammy L. King, Aaron R. Pierce, Kent R. Hersey, and Nicholas Winstead | |
| SANDHILL CRANE MIGRATION CHRONOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR IN NORTHWESTERN TEXAS Carroll D. Littlefield | 62 |
| POPULATION AND GENETICS | 66 |
| PEDIGREE ANALYSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI SANDHILL CRANE | 66 |
| Jessica R. Henkel | |
| POPULATION STATUS AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF GREATER SANDHILL CRANES IN THE MID-CONTINENT POPULATION | 72 |
| Gary L. Krapu and David A. Brandt | |
| TECHNIQUES | 83 |
| AERIAL SURVEY TECHNIQUES FOR BREEDING WHOOPING CRANES | 83 |
| Brian W. Johns | |
| COUNTABILITY OF SANDHILL CRANES IN AERIAL SURVEYS | 89 |
| Douglas H. Johnson, John W. Solberg, and Courtney L. Amundson | |
| DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOOPING CRANE TRACKING PROJECT GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM..... Martha Tacha, Andy Bishop, and Justin Brei | 98 |
| THE EFFECTS OF ANTICOAGULANT CHOICE AND SAMPLE PROCESSING TIME ON HEMATOLOGIC VALUES OF JUVENILE WHOOPING CRANES | 105 |
| Joan Maurer, Betsy Reichenberg, Cristin Kelley, and Barry K. Hartup | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| EVALUATING PROPAGATION METHOD PERFORMANCE OVER TIME WITH BAYESIAN UPDATING: AN APPLICATION TO INCUBATOR TESTING | 110 |
|Sarah J. Converse, Jane N. Chandler, Glenn H. Olsen, and Charles C. Shafer | |
| WHOOPING CRANES | 118 |
| STATUS OF NON-MIGRATORY WHOOPING CRANES IN FLORIDA | |
| Martin J. Folk, James A. Rodgers, Jr., Timothy A. Dellinger, Stephen A. Nesbitt, Jeannette M. Parker, Marilyn G. Spalding, Stephen B. Baynes, M. Kathleen Chappell, and Stephen T. Schwikert | 118 |
| SURVIVAL, REPRODUCTION, AND MOVEMENTS OF MIGRATORY WHOOPING CRANES DURING THE FIRST SEVEN YEARS OF REINTRODUCTION | |
| Richard P. Urbanek, Lara E. A. Fondow, and Sara E. Zimorski | 124 |
| NEST DESERTION IN A REINTRODUCED POPULATION OF MIGRATORY WHOOPING CRANES | |
| Richard P. Urbanek, Sara E. Zimorski, Anna M. Fasoli, and Eva K. Szyszkoski | 133 |
| REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND PERFORMANCE OF THE FLORIDA FLOCK OF INTRODUCED WHOOPING CRANES..... | |
| Marilyn G. Spalding, Martin J. Folk, Stephen A. Nesbitt, and Richard Kiltie | 142 |
| LEG PROBLEMS AND POWER LINE INTERACTIONS IN THE FLORIDA RESIDENT FLOCK OF WHOOPING CRANES | |
| Jaimie L. Miller, Marilyn G. Spalding, and Martin J. Folk | 156 |
| A RETROSPECTIVE OF WHOOPING CRANES IN CAPTIVITY | |
| Cindi Barrett and Thomas V. Stehn | 166 |
| BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS | 180 |
| WHOOPING CRANE TITERS IN RESPONSE TO EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS IMMUNIZATION | |
| Glenn H. Olsen | 180 |
| MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY OF CAPTIVE WHOOPING CRANES AT THE INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION 1976-2008 | |
| Barry K. Hartup, Jennifer N. Niemuth, Bridget Fitzpatrick, Maureen Fox, and Cristin Kelley | 183 |
| ENDOPARASITES OF GREATER SANDHILL CRANES IN SOUTH-CENTRAL WISCONSIN | |
| Somer Hartman, Betsy Reichenberg, Jane Fanke, Anne E. Lacy, and Barry K. Hartup | 186 |
| MISSISSIPPI SANDHILL CRANE CONSERVATION UPDATE 2006-2008 | |
| Scott G. Hereford and Lauren E. Billodeaux | 189 |
| ABSTRACTS | 192 |
| CAUSES OF EMBRYONIC DEATH IN CAPTIVE WHOOPING CRANES..... | |
| Julia N. Letoutchaia, Kelly Maguire, and Barry K. Hartup | 192 |
| A RETROSPECTIVE SEROLOGICAL SURVEY FOR INFECTIOUS BURSAL DISEASE VIRUS IN FREE-RANGING SANDHILL CRANES IN SOUTH-CENTRAL WISCONSIN | |
| Richard R. Sim and Barry K. Hartup | 193 |
| DEMOISELLE CRANES ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN THE UKRAINE..... | |
| Yuriy Andryushchenko | 194 |
| PRELIMINARY WINTERING COUNTS AND NEW LOCATIONS OF SANDHILL CRANES IN MEXICO | |
| Ingrid Barcelo, Edgar G. Lopez, and Felipe Chavez-Ramirez | 195 |
| THE RESPONSE OF NESTING MISSISSIPPI SANDHILL CRANES TO GROWING SEASON PRESCRIBED FIRES | |
| Lauren Billodeaux, Scott Hereford, and Sami Gray | 195 |

| | | |
|---|--|-----|
| RURAL INHABITANT PERCEPTIONS OF SANDHILL CRANES IN NORTHERN MEXICO WINTERING AREAS | Ingrid Barcelo, Julia Rivera Lopez, and Felipe Chavez-Ramirez | 196 |
| MAMMALIAN NEST PREDATION IN MISSISSIPPI SANDHILL CRANES..... | Rose Butler | 197 |
| SANDHILL CRANE STAGING AND WHOOPING CRANE MIGRATORY STOPOVER DYNAMICS IN RESPONSE TO RIVER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON THE CENTRAL PLATTE RIVER, NEBRASKA, USA | Felipe Chavez-Ramirez | 197 |
| CURRENT STATUS OF LESSER SANDHILL CRANES IN YAKUTIA | Inga Bysykatova, Sergey Sleptsov, and Nikolay Vasiliev | 198 |
| DEMOGRAPHY OF WHOOPING CRANES IN THE EASTERN MIGRATORY POPULATION | Sarah J. Converse and Richard P. Urbanek | 198 |
| VIDEO SURVEILLANCE OF NESTING WHOOPING CRANES... | Timothy A. Dellinger and Martin J. Folk | 199 |
| LONGEVITY RECORDS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN GREATER SANDHILL CRANES BANDED DURING 1969–1987 IN IDAHO, MONTANA, UTAH, AND WYOMING | Roderick C. Drewien, Wendy M. Brown, and Kent R. Clegg | 199 |
| HABITAT SELECTION OF EASTERN MIGRATORY WHOOPING CRANES ON THEIR WINTERING GROUNDS | Lara E. A. Fondow and Stanley A. Temple | 200 |
| ICF CONSERVATION EDUCATION: BRIDGING CRANE CONSERVATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY | Joan Garland and Korie Klink | 200 |
| AN INDIVIDUAL WHOOPING CRANE’S FAMILY HISTORY | Karine Gil, Felipe Chavez-Ramirez, Brian W. Johns, Thomas V. Stehn, and Robin Silva | 201 |
| IMPACTS OF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CLIMATE ON WHOOPING CRANE DEMOGRAPHY: TRENDS AND EXTREME EVENTS..... | Karine Gil, William Grant, R. Douglas Slack, and Enrique Weir | 202 |
| METHODS TO REDUCE CROP DEPREDATION BY CRANES IN SIBERIA (TRANS-BAIKAL REGION). | Oleg A. Goroshko | 203 |
| THIRTY YEARS OF MORTALITY ASSESSMENT IN WHOOPING CRANE REINTRODUCTIONS: PATTERNS AND IMPLICATIONS | Barry K. Hartup, Marilyn G. Spalding, Nancy J. Thomas, Gretchen A. Cole, and Young Jun Kim | 204 |
| HOME RANGE SIZE AND HABITAT USE OF MISSISSIPPI SANDHILL CRANE COLTS | Scott G. Hereford, Tracy E. Grazia, Jereme N. Phillips, and Glenn H. Olsen | 205 |
| WHOOPING CRANE MIGRATIONAL HABITAT USE OF THE PLATTE RIVER, NEBRASKA, 2001–2006 | Shay Howlin, Clayton Derby, and Dale Strickland | 206 |
| WINTER DISTRIBUTION OF GREATER SANDHILL CRANES MARKED AT BREEDING AREAS IN CALIFORNIA, OREGON, AND WASHINGTON | Gary L. Ivey, Joseph D. Engler, Martin J. St. Louis, Mark A. Stern, and Sean Cross | 206 |
| EVALUATING CHEMICAL DETERRENCE AT TWO SPATIAL SCALES: THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CHEMICAL DETERRENCE FOR SANDHILL CRANES IN CORNFIELDS | Anne E. Lacy and Jeb A. Barzen | 207 |
| INFLUENCE OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES OF WETLANDS ON NESTING PATTERNS OF SANDHILL CRANES IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN | Su Liying, Anne Lacy, and Jeb Barzen | 207 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES AND CONNECTIVITY OF NORTHERN MEXICO FOR CRANES: CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS | 208 |
| Edgar Gustavo Lopez-Saut, Ricardo Rodriguez Estrella, and Felipe Chavez-Ramirez | |
| MECHANISMS OF HABITAT SELECTION OF REINTRODUCED WHOOPING CRANES ON THEIR BREEDING RANGE..... | 209 |
| Kelly J. Maguire and Stanley A. Temple | |
| FIRST BREEDING RECORDS AND HISTORICAL STATUS OF SANDHILL CRANES IN NEW ENGLAND..... | 209 |
| Scott M. Melvin | |
| THREE WHITE CRANES, TWO FLYWAYS, ONE WORLD | 210 |
| Sara Gavney Moore, Joan Garland, Zhang Juan, and Maria Vladimirtseva | |
| BEHAVIOR COMPARISONS OF TWO REARING PROTOCOLS FOR WHOOPING CRANES RAISED BY COSTUMED CAREGIVERS AND TRAINED FOR AN ULTRALIGHT-LED MIGRATION..... | 211 |
| Glenn H. Olsen and John B. French | |
| MISSISSIPPI SANDHILL CRANE CHICKS PRODUCED FROM CRYOPRESERVED SEMEN..... | 212 |
| Anahid M. Pahlawanian, Megan L. Savoie, Vanessa Peery, Betsy L. Dresser, and S. P. Leibo | |
| EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE AND ABUNDANCE OF SNOW GEESE ON CARRYING CAPACITY OF SANDHILL CRANES DURING SPRING | 213 |
| Aaron T. Pearse, Gary L. Krapu, and David A. Brandt | |
| WINTERING SANDHILL CRANE DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT USE PATTERNS AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, NEW MEXICO | 213 |
| Tandi L. Perkins and Leigh H. Fredrickson | |
| EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS IN FLORIDA WHOOPING CRANES | 214 |
| Marilyn G. Spalding and Lillian M. Stark | |
| EXAMINATION OF OPPORTUNISTICALLY COLLECTED EGGS LAID BY WHOOPING CRANES IN FLORIDA..... | 214 |
| Marilyn G. Spalding, Martin J. Folk, and Stephen A. Nesbitt | |
| PATHOLOGY ASSOCIATED WITH LIGHTNING STRIKE AND DROWNING MORTALITY OF WHOOPING CRANES IN FLORIDA..... | 215 |
| Marilyn G. Spalding, Scott Terrell, and William B. Brooks | |
| THE DIRECT AUTUMN RELEASE OF WHOOPING CRANES INTO THE EASTERN MIGRATORY POPULATION: A SUMMARY OF THE FIRST THREE YEARS..... | 215 |
| Marianne M. Wellington and Richard P. Urbanek | |
| THE ROLE OF RETRIEVAL AND TRANSLOCATION IN A REINTRODUCED POPULATION OF MIGRATORY WHOOPING CRANES..... | 216 |
| Sara E. Zimorski and Richard P. Urbanek | |
| ASSESSING SANDHILL CRANE FLIGHT ALTERATIONS TO POWER LINES IN SOUTH-CENTRAL WISCONSIN..... | 217 |
| Kimberly H. Ness and Anne E. Lacy | |

