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BOOK REVIEW

Cranes of the World, Paul A. Johnsgard, 258 pp., 8½ × 11, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana, bibliography, indexed, hardbound, \$37.50.

The Sandhill Crane, the Whooping Crane, and the Eurasian (Common) Crane, in that order, receive the most attention in the species accounts in this book, reflecting the relative amounts of information available in the literature. Luckily, those are the three cranes which have been recorded in Nebraska (and North America), and so are of most interest to us. The book discusses cranes in general under the following headings: Classification and Evolution, Individualistic and Social Behavior, Vocalizations, Ecology and Population Dynamics, Comparative Reproductive Biology, Aviculture and Hybridization, Endangered Species and Conservation, Cranes in Myth and Legend, Origins of Scientific and Vernacular Names of Cranes, and Key to the Species and Subspecies of Cranes of the World. For each of the fourteen species of cranes — Crowned, Blue, Demoiselle, Wattled, Siberian, Australian, Sarus, White-naped, Sandhill, Whooping, Japanese, Hooded, Black-necked, and Eurasian — there is an individual account. This includes a full-page drawing, a full-page range map, common English and scientific name, other vernacular names, range, subspecies or semispecies, measurements, weights, description, identification, and discussions under the headings of Distribution and Habitat, Foods and Foraging Behavior, Migrations and Movements, General Biology (not given for the Hooded Crane), Breeding Biology; Recruitment Rates, Population Status, and Conservation; and Evolutionary Relationships. In addition there are sixteen pages of color photographs, sixteen pages of black-and-white photographs, and some drawings in available spaces. These latter drawings, those of the individual species, and probably those illustrating points in the text, presumably are by the author (anyone else would have expected credits). The book has the best current answers to practically any questions on cranes, and it should not be difficult reading even for the less scientifically minded reader. When you go out to watch the Sandhills use the behavior account and diagrams to try to read their minds. — *Editor*