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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKSHOP

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKSHOP

**NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKING GROUP
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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:

Jon M. Andrew	S. Patrick Green	Nancy E. Mathews	C. Gregory Schmitt
Laurel A. Bennett	J. Christopher Haney	Stephen J. Maxson	Gregory A. Septon
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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

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