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PROCEEDINGS 1988 NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKSHOP

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PREFACE

What follows is the published product of the fifth North American Crane Workshop held February 22-24, 1988, at River Ranch Outdoor Resort, Lake Wales, Florida. These papers were among the 52 given during that workshop. Also at this meeting, the North American Crane Working Group came into being with the election of a board of directors and the group's first president, Gary Lingle. Among other things, the working group will oversee and lend continuity to future workshops and the publication of the proceedings.

The meeting was organized by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission with support from the University of Florida, Department of Forest Resources and Conservation, and the Florida Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recreation and Parks. A number of individuals contributed to the success of the meeting, but, it would not have been as pleasant or nearly so well organized, were it not for the efforts Kathleen Williams and Terri Steele.

One of the more fortuitous circumstances of the 1988 Workshop was that the meeting coincided with the 84th birthday of Lawrence H. Walkinshaw, "the father of crane biology". Thursday evening was given over to celebration. For the occasion, Jim Lewis extemporized the following tribute which I feel is a concise synopsis of the events and an appropriate conclusion to this pre-amble.—S. A. Nesbitt.

"Hear ye! Hear ye! Fellow Flock Members! Last summer a *flocking* call resounded across the nation, rippling across the water at the Kissimmee Prairie, stirring the cypress at Okefenokee, whispering through pens at Patuxent and Baraboo, shaking cattails at Grays Lake, separating heat waves over the Platte River sandbars, startling a chick at Malheur and echoing across the Yukon-Kuskowim Delta. Then came the response calls directed at Albuquerque and Gainesville

and the time was at hand to prepare for our movement to the wintering grounds. We built up those energy reserves necessary for the trip, practiced our displays and vocal repertoire, and began to think about flock cohorts not seen for many months. On February 22nd, conditions were right for a mass migration. The thermals were rising, and the Canadian front gave us tail winds that rushed us on our way. Rising up from the Canadian prairies, northern Nevada, Wyoming, New Mexico, Nebraska, St. Catherine's Island, San Antonio, Front Royale, North Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Aransas Refuge, Miami Metrozoo, Colorado, Connecticut, Ohio, and Mississippi we came. The excitement was infective, as we began assembling on the Kissimmee Prairie. Greetings trilled out joyously and by dusk, we had identified appropriate habitat in which to feed and roost. Since our arrival we have been busy from dawn to dusk, exchanging information from activities of yesterday, with plans for tomorrow. Now the time is past and like Solomon we can wisely say, "Beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body."

So let us set aside wearisome things and rejoice together tonight. For our flock leader is now ancient of days. And we take joy that he still flocks with us and is strong of wing and leg. With his mate of many springs he stands strong among us, full of wisdom from which we benefit. Symbolic of those we study, he is long-lived, monogamous, and had a clutch size of two. Therefore, with a loud 'Unison Call' we all declare tonight as Larry Walkinshaw night and recognize his birthday."

DEDICATION

Anyone familiar with past volumes in this ongoing series will recognize that this is the first one not edited by Jim Lewis. It takes more than attention to grammar and style to produce a volume of these proceedings and Jim Lewis has produced

four. Because this is the first opportunity to do so, and because of his continuing efforts to enhance the understanding of cranes in North America, these proceedings are dedicated to... Dr. James C. Lewis

