

INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

The International Crane Foundation (ICF) is dedicated solely to the study and preservation of the Gruidae. This is a non-profit organization registered with its headquarters in the USA, but a branch office is also located in Tokyo, Japan. The ICF is currently involved in research projects on cranes in the USA, USSR, Iran, India, Australia, and Africa. The largest and most complete collection of living cranes is maintained at the ICF headquarters in Baraboo, Wisconsin; and is used for research in physiology, anatomy, ethology, captive breeding, and for educational purposes. Included in the collection are 13 of the world's 15 species of cranes; and it is hoped by the end of 1976 all but the Blacknecked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) will be available for study.

ICF is supported completely by donations from the general public and no government funds are received. The ICF facilities are open to the public and almost all of the staff are volunteers. A quarterly newsletter, *Brolga Bugle*, is published by the ICF (first issue Fall 1974) and we have found each issue to be of interest.

Included in the issues that we have received are articles on the Australian Brolga Crane, Cranes in Korea near the DMZ, the Siberian Crane in Iran, and shorter notes and notices of interest to ICF members and friends. For further information concerning the ICF or its newsletter write to:

International Crane Foundation
City View Road
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913
USA

TRAFFIC

Mr. John A. Burton, recently appointed chairman of TRAFFIC, the trade group of the Survival Service Commission of IUCN, and former editor of *BIRDS INTERNATIONAL* (TIGERPAPER III:2), has requested our readers to provide him with data on the animal trade — both legal and illegal — throughout the world. He would also be interested in hearing of any species which could be exploited in the future. Any information concerning the number of animals captured, confiscated, exported, or imported in any country will be appreciated. Mr. Burton feels that compilation of such data on the international trade of animals may force many countries to tighten up on their conservation laws. We support the efforts of the SSC and strongly recommend anyone having any useful information concerning this matter to send it to Mr. Burton at:

Fauna Preservation Society
c/o Zoological Society of London
Regent's Park
London NW1 4RY
UK

WORLD'S LARGEST SEA TURTLE ROOKERY?

In 1974, during a countrywide survey of crocodilians for the Government of India, news of a large sea turtle rookery in Orissa was received. I identified the species as the Pacific or Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) from a skull. This was subsequently confirmed during the breeding season. This year, research has started and during a three week period in February 1976 a total of 158,171 nesting female turtles were marked. Since it was not possible to apply monel metal tags this year, there may be some repeats among those marked. Nevertheless, the rookery is enormous and a most remarkable find for a species listed in the Red Data Book (Vol. III, Reptiles) of I.U.C.N.

Until work started this year, eggs were taken under licence — up to 1.5 to 2 million/annum — for human consumption. Now, following my advice, the Government of Orissa has completely banned the taking of eggs and revoked all egg licences. Furthermore, special staff have been posted to protect the eggs and nesting females. In April 1975 this nesting rookery was included inside a sanctuary known as the Bhitarkanika Sanctuary. The main purpose of the sanctuary is protection of the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*), and the Pacific Ridley sea turtle. For this reason twelve islands have been included within the confines of the sanctuary, located approximately 87°E, 21°N. During 1977 research will be extended from the 2-3 km site covered in 1976 to another coastal nesting area and also to several offshore islands which are considered to be important rookeries. Monel metal tags will also be used for permanent tagging operations.

Dr. H.R. Bustard
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