



George Archibald
Born July 13, 1946

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– George Archibald

George Archibald, is one of the two co-founders of the International Crane Foundation (ICF), headquartered in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Archibald is considered the world's leading authority on cranes.

The Foundation could have been located in many places across the world. That it is in Baraboo, Wisconsin, has much to do with our state's rich conservation history and with Archibald's appreciation of the legacy.

Archibald and co-founder Ron Sauey, a colleague from Cornell University, chose Baraboo in 1973 for a couple of reasons. One was practical. "Ron lived here. His parents were willing to rent their horse farm to us for \$1 a year," Archibald said. But Archibald was also well aware of the historic significance of the location. He jumped at the chance to live in an area so close to Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Inductee Aldo Leopold's shack and so rich in natural and conservation history.

"It couldn't be a better location. It is historic habitat for sandhill and whooping cranes," he said in a May 2005 Conservation Hall of Fame interview at the Baraboo farmhouse he shares with his wife. A sign on the driveway out front announces "Eggs for Sale."

"This area has Devil's Lake, the Baraboo Hills and all this conservation history. There's Aldo Leopold's Shack. John Muir (Conservation Hall of Fame inductee) grew up close by. Frank Lloyd Wright worked in Spring Green. Georgia O'Keefe was born in Sun Prairie, and Frederick Jackson Turner was born in Portage," Archibald said. Aware of this rich history, Archibald has also cemented a brilliant legacy in international conservation from Baraboo, where he is known and admired by local residents.

ICF's scope of activities is international, touching 45 different countries with a spectrum of projects. But operations still emanate from Baraboo, Wisconsin. ICF believes in helping organizations to establish themselves in other countries. It helps to train, share information with and otherwise support those organizations. Dozens of crane researchers from around the world come to ICF for extended stays to learn and share information. Volunteers and college interns help the ICF staff of 16 in its key program areas – crane

rearing, education, field ecology and administration. About 25,000 people visit ICF annually. They come from all over the world to view rare cranes and learn about how to preserve the habitats that help to preserve the birds.

While ICF operations are supported by funding from around the world, Wisconsin residents dominate its list of 7,000 supporting members. It is truly a Wisconsin institution with an international scope.

Then there is the annual Midwest Crane County organized by the Foundation, in which thousands of volunteers set out in mid-April across Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Iowa to track sandhill cranes migrating back to breeding grounds.

George Archibald was born July 13, 1946, in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada. As a youngster, he had a keen interest in birds, and bred waterfowl, pheasants and chickens at home. One of his earliest memories is of crawling after a female duck and her brood. Later, during his undergraduate years, he spent two summers working as a bird caretaker at the Alberta Game Farm, where he was introduced to cranes.

Archibald received his undergraduate degree from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1968, and completed his Ph.D. at Cornell University in 1977 under William Dilger in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior. His doctoral thesis was titled "The Taxonomic and Evolutionary Relationships of Cranes as revealed by their Unison Calls."

In 1972, Archibald went to Japan to study wintering red-crowned cranes on the island of Hokkaido. This flock, which winters at feeding stations, was thought to breed in Siberia. Archibald, however, discovered that the entire flock was nesting in a marsh on the north end of Hokkaido. Much of the area was scheduled for development, so he led a public awareness campaign to save the wetlands. The effort culminated in an audience with the royal family, and a significant portion of the marsh was preserved.

Archibald and Sauey established the International Crane Foundation in the spring of 1973, as the world center for the study and preservation of cranes. Earlier that year, Archibald had traveled to Australia to confirm the presence of the rare eastern sarus crane – a subspecies which had recently arrived in Australia and was later thought to be extinct in its former range of southeast Asia. Archibald captured six eastern sarus cranes in Australia and brought them to ICF for captive breeding.

One of Archibald's first goals for ICF was to establish a "species bank" of captive cranes. Under his supervision, ICF has now built the world's largest and most complete collection of cranes, and has also been credited with the first captive breeding of two endangered species. The eastern sarus crane bred successfully at ICF, and a reintroduction program is now under way in Thailand.

In the winter of 1974, Archibald received permission to live with the South Korean Army and observe cranes near the Demilitarized Zone. He discovered that a large percentage of the world's white-naped cranes and the rare red-crowned cranes staged and wintered on the Han River Estuary adjacent to the DMZ. The estuary was being diked and drained, so Archibald alerted the South Korean people through the media. Thanks to his efforts and the interest of the Korean Ministry of Culture and Information, 400 square kilometers of the wetland are now protected as a natural monument. Work in the 1970s also helped to establish long-term relationships in the region that are being put to use in efforts to promote peace and conservation.

The list of similar activities by Archibald and the ICF tells a story of tireless involvement in conservation and international relations, all centering around cranes, which Archibald has called "charismatic."

Here are more examples of his work:

Since 1976, Archibald has master-minded an extensive international program to save the Siberian crane – for years considered the most endangered of all cranes. The USSR Ministry of Forestry collected eggs from nests in the wild so captive flocks be established at ICF and Russia's Rare Crane Breeding Center. Key wintering areas were protected in India and China, and ICF began restocking Siberian cranes there, using offspring from its captive flock.

Since 1980, Archibald has also initiated a series of research and habitat protection programs for cranes in China. He assisted with the development of China's first field station for ornithological research, and led an extensive research program on the bird life of the Zhalong Nature Reserve in northwest China. In 1984, he began working with the Chinese to establish two additional crane research and public education centers in southeastern China in Jiangxi Province, winter home of the world's largest flock of Siberian Cranes and in Jiangsu Province, where red-crowned cranes winter.

Many aspects of his international work came together in 1983, when an International Crane Workshop convened in Bharatpur, India. Archibald served as general secretary for this conference, which was attended by 200 delegates from 22 countries including China, Iran, Pakistan, and the former USSR. One of his most treasured personal goals is to use cranes as a vehicle for cooperation between politically polarized nations. Another International Crane Workshop was held in 1987 in China, equally as well attended as the workshop in 1983.

In 1984, Archibald presented to Princess Somsavali of Thailand six young eastern sarus cranes raised from eggs he brought to Baraboo from Australia. The Government of Thailand works with ICF on a program to reintroduce the eastern sarus cranes back into the wild in Thailand.

In 1985, as an expression of good will and to import to ICF a pair of black-necked Cranes, Archibald orchestrated the exchange of captive cranes with China. That year a pair of black-necked Cranes were exported from China to ICF marking the first time this endangered species had ever been exported from China.

ICF efforts to help reintroduce cranes and support their habitat often requires the help of countries that have been preoccupied with war. The list includes Pakistan and Afghanistan, and both North and South Korea. His work in South Korea focuses on an effort to strengthen conservation efforts in the country's demilitarized zone. The area "is a wonderful refuge for cranes, but it's not really a protected area," he said in a 2003 interview with The Capital Times of Madison. "It's only protected because of the political tension" between North and South Korea. There is no agriculture in the zone, and no people live there.

Archibald's goal is for the ICF, the DMZ Forum (a group that wants the DMZ to become a World Peace Park and environmental laboratory) and the Koreans to bring the United Nations a proposal to develop a conservation management plan for the DMZ.

Archibald is hopeful, "but it will be a long process" that can't be rushed, he said. His work in these areas is guided by a clear philosophy. "In international cooperation, it's important to focus on matters of mutual interest, rather than conflict. Cranes are really good ambassadors of habitat and international good will."

Archibald is an honorary member of the Russian Ornithological Society and the Chinese Ornithological Society, and is the Honorary Inspector of China's Zhalong Nature Reserve. He is also a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Species Survival Commission, and has been the subject of numerous television, radio and newspaper features.

He is quick to credit others with the gains made by the ICF, especially Sauey, who died in 1987 at age 39. But others point to Archibald's numerous accomplishments.

People from all walks of life recognize Archibald as the man who danced with a crane. He successfully bred, through the use of artificial insemination, a human-imprinted whooping Crane named Tex by imitating the courtship dancing and behavior of a male crane. The "offspring" was the celebrated male Whooping Crane named Gee Whiz, which produced seven offspring. Tex was killed by a raccoon in June of 1982, three weeks after Gee Whiz hatched. Gee Whiz was the father and grandfather of many captive cranes. Some of his offspring are now living in the wild in Florida as part of the nonmigratory Florida flock of whoopers.

Back home in Baraboo these days, the Crane Foundation has long since moved from the Sauey Farm to 230 acres of terminal moraine from the Wisconsin Glacier. It includes 100 acres of restored prairie. Visitors and researchers alike from around the world visit the ICF to view rare and endangered cranes from around the world and to learn about efforts to protect them and enhance their habitats. The organization's Web site has received more than 4 million hits.

The annual crane count turned 30 this year. It started in 1976 as the Columbia County Crane Survey, a cooperative effort between ICF and Middleton high school students to encourage students to become more involved in conservation. It has grown to involve more than 4,000 volunteers of all ages across five states. It has increase awareness of and appreciation for cranes, other wildlife and the wetland ecosystems on which cranes and a myriad of other species depend.

ICF activities are centered more on field ecology and less on breeding these days, Archibald said in the Conservation Hall of Fame interview. The goal has been to help organizations in other countries take over some of the breeding. Archibald has organized

nine Working Groups on Cranes around the world, bringing together more than 900 researchers from 64 countries.

Archibald retired Nov. 1, 2000, as president and chief executive officer of ICF, and following an international search, operational duties were turned over to Jim Harris, who had been deputy director since 1988.

In announcing the changing of the guard at ICF, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel recounted accomplishments under Archibald's leadership:

- Successfully bred in captivity all 15 species of cranes, many for the first time. Those species include seven now listed as endangered and four others proposed for such status.
- Contributed isolation-reared birds from its own captive flocks to establish a new, non-migratory flock of endangered whooping cranes in central Florida.
- Played a major role in developing a plan, now being implemented, to establish a migratory flock of whoopers that nest in central Wisconsin and winter in Florida.
- Began similar reintroduction efforts for other endangered crane species in South Korea, the former Soviet Union, Iran, China and Thailand.

Noel Cutright, conservation chairman for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, said this of Archibald's accomplishments: "For one person to have the breadth and scope and ability to function in the areas of science, fund raising, environmental education for both children and adults and government liaison is unique. George did all of these things. I'm just grateful he ended up in Wisconsin."

Karen Etter Hale of the Madison Audubon Society added this, "George has a tremendous ability to work with people of all kinds around the world toward a common purpose. As a result ICF has been enormously effective in doing groundbreaking work in habitat preservation and reintroduction."

Curt Meine, author, Aldo Leopold biographer and research associate at ICF sees Archibald and his work this way:

"Very few individuals have had so lasting or far-reaching an impact on contemporary conservation as George Archibald. He has led an organization whose small size belies its effectiveness, its global reach, and its reputation as an innovative force in conservation. ICF's programs have provided inspiration and served as models for individuals, communities, and organizations at home and abroad. In so doing, ICF has built upon and extended Wisconsin's special conservation heritage in unique ways.

“For more than three decades ICF has been a voice for the conservation of cranes, of birds in general, and of wetlands and grasslands, and a leader in devising community-based projects that help to harmonize human and natural communities. Although its mission is international, ICF has deep Wisconsin roots. Archibald’s work through ICF has involved thousands of Wisconsin’s citizens as members, and many of our leading scientific institutions, schools and universities, businesses as conservation partners. In this sense, Archibald has been an ambassador from Wisconsin’s conservation community to the world. Scientists, conservationists, and local citizens from around the world have come to know Wisconsin through ICF; and untold numbers of Wisconsinites have come to know the world, and its conservation challenges, through the work of Archibald and his ICF colleagues.

“But the real measure of George Archibald’s work is found in our Wisconsin landscape: in the return of the sandhill crane and the whooping crane to the skies and wetlands of Wisconsin; in the numbers of people engaged locally in crane and wetland conservation; in the wetlands that motivated landowners and citizens have protected and restored; and in the ongoing challenge of better integrating conservation, agriculture, and land use. George Archibald has been a special catalyst in this work for more than 30 years. He has done so—as he has often urged—by “keeping it positive.” He has been a stalwart champion of conservation as an affirmative means of bringing people together, despite the superficial boundaries and differences that may divide them. While Archibald has carried that conservation principle across five continents, he found and nurtured it here in Wisconsin.”

Archibald is all of that and also the guy who sells eggs on a little farm south of Baraboo, one of the most active members of the nearby Walnut Hill Baptist Church. “I’m amazed at all the people he knows around here,” said Ann Burke, director of public information at ICF. It’s like that all over the world for George Archibald.

GEORGE ARCHIBALD

BORN: July 13, 1946, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada

EDUCATION: 1976 Ph.D. Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
1968 B.S. Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

2003 to present Co-founder & Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, International Crane Foundation

2000 to 2003 Chairman of the Board of Directors, International Crane Foundation.

1973 – 2000 Director, International Crane Foundation.

1972 – 1973 Field research on cranes in Japan and Australia supported by the New York Zoological Society.

1968 – 1971 Graduate studies at Cornell University, part-time employment as data manager for the nest record card program at the Cornell Laboratory for Ornithology, teaching assistantship in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

1965 – 1968 Undergraduate work at Dalhousie University, teaching assistant in comparative anatomy of vertebrates.

1968 summer Park naturalist at the Fundy National Park, New Brunswick, Canada.

1966/67 summer
Aviculturist at the Alberta Game Farm, Alberta, Canada.

1965 summer
Bird bander for the Department of Lands and Forests, Nova Scotia, Canada.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral studies at Cornell University addressed the comparative ethology of cranes and evolutionary relationships. Since the founding of the International Crane Foundation (ICF), he has studied the ecology of eight species of cranes in Australia, Bhutan, China, Iran, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the USA. He helped organize nine Working Groups on Cranes, including more than 900 researchers in 64 nations. Each group and many

subgroups have regular meetings every 2-4 years and research reports are published after most of these meetings.

CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

Through the activities of the various Working Groups, he has helped stimulate actions that resulted in the conservation of more than five million hectares of wetlands in Asia, most of this land being in China and USSR. Through his leadership at ICF, conservation-education programs have been implemented among the local people in remote regions of Africa, Australia, and Eurasia. Under his direction, ICF has established a “species bank” of captive cranes and has been successful in consistently breeding significant numbers of several endangered species of cranes. He helped pioneer techniques for returning cranes to the wild.

HONORS AND AWARDS

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| 2004 | The John T. Curtis Award for Career Excellence in Ecological Restoration – Friends of the University of Wisconsin—Madison Arboretum |
| 2004 | Honorary Doctor of Science – University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. |
| 2002 | Honorary Doctor of Laws – Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada. |
| 2001 | Commendation for Service Award. State of Wisconsin National Resources Board and Department of Natural Resources. |
| 2000 | Keystone Center Leadership Award. |
| 1998 | Honorary Doctor of Laws – Mount Allison University, New Brunswick, Canada. |
| 1996 | Honorary Doctorate – Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. |
| 1994 | Gold Seal Award by the National Council of State Garden Clubs. |
| 1993 | Communication and Leadership Award, Toastmasters International District 35, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. |
| 1993 | Distinguished Conservationist Award from the National Audubon Society. |
| 1988 | ICF awarded “Organization of the Year” by the National Wildlife Federation. |

- 1987 The Global 500 Roll of Honor for Environmental Achievement, United Nations Environment Programme.
- 1985 World Wildlife Fund Gold Medal in recognition of unique contributions to the survival of the world's cranes and the conservation of their wetland habitats, by World Wildlife Fund– International.
- 1984 The MacArthur Award in recognition of accomplishments in ornithology, presented by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.
- 1983 Order of the Golden Ark for outstanding service to the conservation of wildlife and the national environment, presented by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

AUTHOR/SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2003 Archibald, George. *Wildlife Spectacles*. Pages 195-198. In Patricio Robles Gil, Series Producer Cemex Books on Nature, 2003.
- 2002 Archibald, George. "cranes (Gruide)." In *Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia, 2nd Edition. Volume 9, Birds III*, edited by Michael Hutchins, Jerome A. Jackson, Walter J. Bock, and Donna Olendorf. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Group, 2002.
- 1996 Archibald, G., and C. Meine. *Family Gruidae*. Pages 60-89 In del Hoyo, Josep. Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 3 Hoatzin to Auks. Lynx Edicion: Barcelona.
- 1996 Archibald, G and St. Nesbitt. *A Reintroduction of whooping cranes in Florida*. Pages 30-31 In Proceedings of the Fourth Annual International Crane Symposium. National Audubon Society: Boulder, Colorado.
- 1996 Archibald, G. *Conservation of Siberian cranes in West Asia*. Page 19 In Proceedings of the Third European Crane Workshop. WWF/NABU: Straslund, Germany.
- 1996 Meine, C., and G. Archibald, Compilers. *Cranes: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan*. IUCN: Gland, Switzerland.
- 1996 Archibald, G., R.H. Hallam, and C. Meine. *Securing support for crane and wetland conservation projects*. Pages 589-590. In R.D. Beilfuss, W.R. Tarboton, and N.N. Gichuki. Proceedings of the African Crane and Wetland Training Workshop. International Crane Foundation: Baraboo, Wisconsin, USA.

- 1996 Archibald, G., J.C. Lewis. Crane Biology. In D.H. Ellis, G.F. Gee, and C.M. Mirande. *Cranes: Their Biology, Husbandry, and Conservation*. National Biological Service.
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- 1987 Archibald, G., and R.F. Pasquier. Eds., *Proceedings of the 1983 International Crane Workshop*. ICF: Baraboo, Wisconsin, USA.
- 1985 Archibald, G., and S.R. Swengel. *Comparative ecology and behavior of Eastern Sarus Cranes and Brolgas in Australia*. Pages 107-116 In *Proceedings: 1985 Crane Workshop*. Platte River Whooping Crane Habitat Maintenance Trust and USF&WS Grand Island, NE.
- 1984 Archibald, G., and C. Mirande. *Population status and management efforts for endangered cranes*. In Proc. 50th North American Wildlife and National Reserves Conference, Washington, D.C. 38pp.
- 1983 Archibald, G. *Status of Whooping Crane Conservation efforts*. In S. Temple, ed., *Endangered birds, management techniques for preserving threatened species*. Univ. of Wisconsin Press, Madison. 466 pp.
- 1981 Archibald, G., and M. Oesting. *Black-necked Cranes: a review*. In J.C. Lewis and H. Masatomi, eds., *Crane Research Around the World*. International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, Wisconsin. 190-196.
- 1980 Archibald, G., and S. Lantis and I. Munetchika. *Endangered Ibises, Threskiornithinae: Their future in the wild and in captivity*. Intl. Zoo Yearbook, 20:6-17.
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- 1976 Archibald, G., *The unison call as a useful taxonomic tool*. Ph.D. thesis. Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. 167 pp.

1976 Archibald, G., Crane taxonomy as revealed by the unison call. Pages 225-251 In J.C. Lewis, ed., Proceedings: Intl. Crane Workshop. Oklahoma State University: Tulsa, OK.

Many additional popular articles published in Animal Kingdom, Yacho, International Wildlife, Darshan, Natural History, National Geographic, Ranger Rick, and The ICF Bugle.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Bombay Natural History Society, Canadian Wildlife Service, Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chinese Association for Wildlife Conservation, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), New York Zoological Society, Oriental Bird Club, Ornithological Society of China, Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, South African Ornithological Society, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Fund – Thailand, World Wildlife Fund, Yamashina Institute for Ornithology.

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Journey North, 2001, "Dancing With Cranes," Journey North, 2001.

"The Fading Call of the Siberian Crane," *National Geographic*, May 1994.

"President of Crane Conservation Group to Step Aside," Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 13, 2000.

"Baraboo facility has helped protect birds for 30 years," Madison Capital Times, April 8, 2003.

Several issues of the ICF newsletter, "The ICF Bugle," were reviewed. Background information on the annual Midwest Crane Count was taken from the February 2005 issue of the newsletter.

The ICF Web site at www.savingcranes.org also provided information.

Conservation Hall of Fame interviews with George Archibald and Ann Burke, ICF director of public relations, were conducted by Bill Berry on May 16, 2003.

Bill Berry
June 2005