

Grus Americana

Whooping Crane Conservation Association

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Record Number of Fledglings at Wood Buffalo National Park



Two Whooping Crane parents and their cinnamon-colored twin chicks on summer muskeg. Photo taken during the 2017 fledgling survey, John McKinnon/ Parks Canada.

Following a banner Whooping Crane nesting season this past spring in Wood Buffalo National Park (as reported in our previous newsletter), those same nests produced a record number of fledged chicks — 63, including four sets of twins! The previous high of 49 fledglings was set in 2006.

Sharon Irwin, a resource management officer with Parks Canada, said that staff were elated during the spring [nest] survey when they found 98 nests. “We had high hopes that the conditions would stay good over the summer,” said Irwin. “I guess it was probably after day two of the [fledgling] survey — we had really good numbers — that we realized we were going to break the record.”

The fledgling survey was carried out by Parks Canada and Environment & Climate Change Canada on July 28 to August 1. This was the 51st year of annual surveys of the Whooping Crane population in Wood Buffalo National Park.

Thanks to Mike Keizer of Parks Canada and Brian Johns. The quotes from Sharon Irwin were from a CBC News article published August 16, 2017.



1966–2017

51 Years of Whooping Crane Conservation

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Fall Migration 2017 – Saskatchewan Whooping Crane Encounter

By Val and Kim Mann



On Thursday October 5, my sister Val and I travelled three hours north from our home in Regina in search of Whooping Cranes. The area around Meacham, Saskatchewan usually is our best bet to find the big, white birds.

We found a pair with a juvenile foraging in a slough next to the road. As we watched from inside our vehicle, they picked snails off pieces of submerged grasses, preened, and snoozed. After about fifteen minutes, a grain hauler came by and spooked them into flying. They disappeared over a hill and we continued on our way.

That afternoon, we decided to return to the slough in hopes of photographing crane footprints in the mud. We never expected the birds to be there again. But they were! This time, one adult was asleep, one was preening, and the young colt was trying everything he could to disturb his parents. They were enjoying the afternoon sun.

We stayed in our vehicle and took some more pictures. At one point, the youngster left his parents and foraged on his own. As he hunted, he slowly came toward us. The one parent kept watch but showed no signs of alarm. The juvenile was quite comical — a few times his foot got stuck in the mud and he would get a little freaked until he lifted himself out with a flap of those huge wings. Eventually he turned back and rejoined his parents.

We spent almost half an hour with them until they became restless and slowly walked up the side of the hill. By now we could hear and see what had disturbed them — another grain hauler came into view and off they flew.

Because of the super telephoto lens and image cropping, it looks like we were very close to the cranes; however, we were quite a distance back.



Thanks to Kim and Val for giving us this rare glimpse of a Whooping Crane family early in fall migration, and to Lorne Scott for bringing the Manns' photos to my attention. — Ed.

Aransas—Wood Buffalo Whooping Crane Population Summary 2014-2017

	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of nests detected at WBNP (May)	82	68	78	98 [†]
No. of fledged chicks detected (August)	32*	23	45**	63***
Average no. of chicks per nest[#]	0.39	0.34	0.57	0.64
Additional territorial pairs (non-nesters)	43	20-24	18	?
Estimated total no. of birds at Aransas NWR within the primary survey area[‡]	308 (95% CI 267-350)	329 (95% CI 293-371)	431 (95% CI 371-493)	
Estimated no. of juveniles at Aransas NWR	39	38	50	

†The most nests ever recorded. *Two families with twins; **one family with twins; ***four families with twins

[#]20-year average is 0.48 chicks per nest

Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP) 2014 data are from *Northern Journal* (norj.ca), Sept. 1, 2014, quoting Mark Bidwell. WBNP 2015 data are from Bidwell and Conkin (March 2016), *Recovery and Ecology of Whooping Cranes: Monitoring of the Aransas-Wood Buffalo Population during the Breeding Season 2015 Report*. WBNP 2016 breeding data are preliminary results from the Canadian Wildlife Service, with thanks to Mark Bidwell. 2017 nest survey data are from Mike Keizer, Parks Canada. 2017 fledgling data are from CBC News, August 16, 2017 (www.cbc.ca/news). Aransas NWR winter data are from 'Whooping Crane Updates' at the ANWR website.

The Whooping Crane winter count data collected at Aransas NWR in December 2016 were finally released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on September 18, 2017 (the bottom two entries in the '2016' column in the table above). There is good news and bad news. The good news is that the Aransas—Wood Buffalo Population appears to have reached an all-time high (431 birds, give or take) since counting began ~75 years ago. The bad news is the large discrepancy in the estimated population totals between 2015 and 2016 (329 vs. 431, a 31% increase), not to mention the much expanded 95% confidence interval for 2016. The USFWS 'credits' the big year-on-year increase to having switched the type of aircraft used for the survey, from a Cessna 206 to a Quest Kodiak with better visibility for viewing cranes below. It therefore follows that all previous estimates based on the Cessna data (2011 to 2015) should now be considered as underestimates.

Prior to 2011, a complete census of the Whooping Cranes present at Aransas NWR was attempted each winter, but in 2011 the USFWS implemented a new 'distance sampling' protocol. It is now fair to question whether the new sampling approach as currently done can give a reliable estimate of true size of the Aransas—Wood Buffalo flock. At least we can be confident of one thing, that the population is increasing, based on the record number of nests and fledglings counted this year in Wood Buffalo National Park. – Ed.

Hurricane Harvey

No one can forget the grim scenes of devastation and flooding brought by Hurricane Harvey as it wracked the Texas coast during the last week of August 2017.

A good number of our members reside in Texas, and some were impacted directly. Tom Stehn had no choice but to evacuate from his home as the Category 4 storm bore down on the Coastal Bend region, where Harvey first made landfall.

In the coastal town of Rockport, which was hit by some of the strongest winds and badly damaged, the building that was the Texas base of the Whooping Crane Program of the International Crane Foundation was torn apart. In the aftermath, ICF supporters rallied by making donations to rebuild the facility.

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and its natural environs sustained a direct hit, too, but showed good resiliency in comparison to much of the human-built infrastructure.

According to Liz Smith, Texas-based ICF Senior Whooping Crane Scientist, the vegetation on the refuge was rebounding quickly: grasses and forbs were covering bare ground, and Wolfberry plants, a dietary staple for wintering Whooping Cranes, were producing abundant fruit. The coastal marshes stayed largely intact. However, storm surge filled the freshwater ponds with saltwater, and low salinities in the bays could affect the abundance of blue crabs (another important crane food) in shallow areas.

Water wells damaged by Harvey and needed by Whooping Cranes during droughts are being repaired thanks to a \$75,000 grant from the National Wildlife Federation. These wells, both on and off the refuge, replenish freshwater ponds the cranes drink from. Wade Harrell, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Whooping Crane Recovery Coordinator, and James Dodson, project manager for the San Antonio Bay Partnership, hoped to have the repairs completed by the end of November. However, salinity in the freshwater ponds could still be a concern. Dodson said most of the wells are shallow and were inundated by Harvey's storm surge.

Crane activity, including pond usage, will be intensely monitored in the months ahead.

The first Whooping Cranes of the season began arriving in early November after their 2400-mile migration from Wood Buffalo National Park.

The information above was from various news sources and articles, including 'Recovery', by Liz Smith, ICF Senior Whooping Crane Scientist, which appeared in the ICF newsletter *The Bugle* (November 2017), and 'Wells important to endangered species to be repaired', by Jessica Priest, *The Victoria Advocate* (October 17, 2017).

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A note from Tom Leiden, our new secretary

My passion for nature and adventure started over 30-years ago, when I got interested in birding in my hometown, Cleveland, Ohio. My study of birds led me to appreciate the inter-connections of nature and started me on a journey that became a lifelong pursuit to help conserve our world's wildlife. Along the way I fell in love with cranes.

My first encounter with cranes occurred early in my birding career on a field trip with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area. I was in awe of the spectacle of thousands of calling Sandhill Cranes that filled the horizon then landed to roost for the night. I also had the good fortune to visit the International Crane Foundation to see and learn about the cranes of the world. These experiences left lasting impressions.

This year was the year of the crane for me and my wife, Kathy. Our travels took us to Texas, Mongolia, Bhutan and South Africa in search of cranes. We were able to see eleven of the fifteen species, with the highlight being able to assist in the banding of the Blue Crane in South Africa.

Kathy and I also administer a family foundation, the Leiden Conservation Foundation. We are pleased to be working with the International Crane Foundation on supporting various conservation programs to help save the cranes that we have seen in our travels.

This spring, I had the opportunity to attend the North American Crane Workshop in Chattanooga, TN where I learned about the great work that the Whooping Crane Conservation Association is doing.

After 34 years with Leiden Cabinet Company (store fixtures), I retired in 2015 when the business was sold to our management team. I currently serve on the boards of the Cleveland Zoological Society, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and Giraffe Conservation Foundation USA. And now secretary for the Whooping Crane Conservation Association.



Tom holds a Blue Crane in South Africa, August 2017. A GPS transmitter was attached to the crane, part of a conservation project with Endangered Wildlife Trust.

Eurasian Cranes, two adults and two tiny chicks (in the grass, trailing the adult crane on the left), in Mongolia, June 2017. Also, see page 12.



Eastern Migratory Population Update



Wild-hatched chick W7-17 with parents 14-08 and 24-08 at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, 25 September 2017. Photo: Hillary Thompson/ICF

Reproduction — This year there were 37 confirmed nests by 26 pairs breeding in Wisconsin. Eggs from the first nests of 13 pairs were collected to force the pairs to re-nest later in the season and hopefully avoid nesting during the seasonal black fly emergence. Eighteen chicks hatched from four first nests and ten re-nests in Juneau, Adams, and Marathon Counties. Two of these chicks have fledged and are still with their parents on their breeding territories (W7-17 with parents in Juneau County, W3-17 with parents in Adams County). This is the first year for both pairs to have raised a chick to fledging.

Current population size — As of 13 October, the current estimated population size is 113 Whooping Cranes (51 females, 58 males, and 4 unknown). This total includes the 2017 costume-reared and parent-reared cohorts, as well as the two wild-hatched chicks. At this time, most Whooping Cranes are still in Wisconsin and have not yet begun migration. We have gotten reports of one bird in Michigan, one in Illinois, one in Iowa, and one in Kentucky (70-16 who never completed migration back to Wisconsin this spring/summer). Earlier this summer we had two one-year-old Whooping Cranes in North Dakota who have returned to Wisconsin, and one in South Dakota who has returned to northwestern Iowa.

2017 Captive-reared cohort — This fall we released a total of 18 captive-raised juvenile Whooping Cranes, consisting of 7 costume-reared birds and 11 parent-reared birds. The costume-reared birds hatched at Patuxent National Wildlife Research Center in Maryland, and were shipped to Wisconsin to be raised at White River Marsh. They were soft-released during October and have been associating with a 5 year-old male and a one-year-old male since their release. They are often seen foraging and roosting with these two older birds and are starting to explore new areas in and around the marsh. The 11 parent-reared Whooping Cranes were released at six different sites in Wisconsin that were being used by adult Whooping Cranes. All eleven of these birds are still alive and are in the same general area of their release. The parent-reared chicks who are not currently seen associating with adult Whooping Cranes are often seen with Sandhill Cranes, foraging in fields and roosting in the marshes, preparing for migration. Some parent-reared birds are regularly associating with the adults near whom they were released.



Left: Wild-hatched chick W3-17 with parents 24-09 and 42-09 in Adams County, Wisconsin, 2 October 2017. Right: Release of parent-reared chick 37-17 (F) in Marathon County, Wisconsin, 9 October 2017. [37-17 remained in her release area until 12 November, but, sadly, was found dead the next day in Juneau County; the likely cause of death of was powerline collision. — Ed.]

Photos: Hillary Thompson/International Crane Foundation



Costume-reared cohort with adults 5-12 (male) and PR 30-16 (male) near White River Marsh in Green Lake County, Wisconsin, 9 October 2017. Photo: Doug Pellerin

We have had an observation of two of the chicks imitating the adults dancing, as well as an observation of adults chasing away a coyote with the chicks following close behind. Observations like these are promising for the chicks to be learning behaviors from adults that will hopefully lead to longer survival and more successful reproduction.

***Contributed by Hillary Thompson, North America Program Crane Analyst,
International Crane Foundation***

As of early December 2017, most, but not all, EMP Whooping Cranes had left Wisconsin. Other states hosting wintering EMP whoopers include Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida and Louisiana (a single errant bird). As voted by the birds themselves, two locations are wintering hotspots for Whooping Cranes: southwestern Indiana, centering around Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area, and northern Alabama, centering around Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. [Information from the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (www.bringbackthecranes.org)] — Ed.

Louisiana Whooping Crane Update

Reproduction – Eight pairs (6 on privately owned land, 2 at the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area) produced 18 nests with eggs in 2017, the fourth year of nesting by the Louisiana flock. First nesting attempts were initiated in February and March. Re-nesting attempts were initiated an average of approximately 20 days after the first nest attempt was completed and occurred throughout April and May. Third nesting attempts were initiated an average of approximately 15 days after failure of the second nest attempt, or after disappearance of a chick in the case of one pair.

Wild-hatched chicks and egg swaps – Pair L7-11 and L8-11 hatched out one chick (LW1-17) from an egg produced by captive cranes at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. The egg was swapped into their second nest attempt of the season on 12 April and LW1-17 hatched the following day. The pair raised LW1-17 until heavy rains and storms moved through the area overnight, flooding the property. A trail camera set up on the nesting platform, which the family had continued to use for roost, showed that LW1-17 disappeared shortly after 4:25 AM on 30 April at 17 days of age when the family moved off the flooded roost platform presumably attempting to find higher ground (see photo).



L7-11 & L8-11 remained on the roosting platform with chick LW1-17 as the water rose in the field. This trail camera photo was taken just before the pair attempted to leave the flooded field with the chick, who was subsequently lost.

Pair L2-12 and L14-12 hatched out one chick (LW2-17) on 26 April 2017 at the White Lake WCA in Vermilion Parish. LW2-17 disappeared at 22-29 days of age.

Pair L10-11 and L11-11 hatched out one chick (LW3-17) from an egg produced by a pair of cranes in the Eastern Migratory Population in Wisconsin that had been pulled prior to full-term incubation. The egg was swapped into their second nest attempt on 5 May and LW3-17 hatched out the following day. LW3-17 has fledged and is still alive and with its parents as of 25 October.

A third egg swap was attempted on pair L7-11 and L8-11's third nest attempt of the season using an egg produced by captive cranes from the Calgary Zoo; however, the pair, who were already past full term on their own eggs, abandoned the nest prior to the expected hatch date and the day after the egg swap on 21 June. Examination of the egg indicated that the embryo was mal-positioned.

Travel to other states – Nine yearling cranes spent the summer of 2017 in Texas, mainly in Orange, Montgomery and Jefferson Counties and one additional yearling spent approximately two months in Orange County. As of 25 October, two yearling males and four yearling females remain in the state.

One pair of three-year-old cranes arrived in Chicot County, Arkansas on 15 June and returned to Louisiana on 22 September.

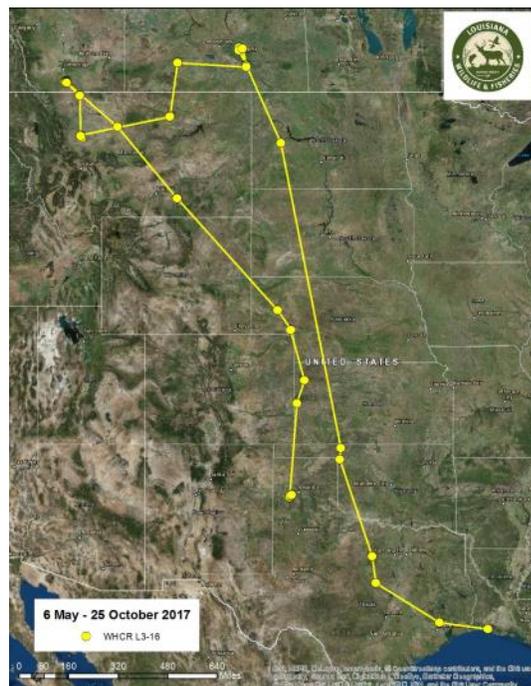
Two yearling males (L3-16 & 4-16) departed Louisiana to the west on 6 May. They traveled north through Texas and into southern Saskatchewan, Canada where they were observed on 19 May. L3-16 moved west, south, west and back north into Alberta, Canada where he was observed alone on 31 August. He began traveling back south on 13 September and was located in Deaf Smith County, Texas on 25 October (see map on next page). L4-16's remote transmitter failed shortly after the two left Louisiana and his status is unknown.

A handful of older birds also made trips into Texas, Mississippi and Arkansas; however, none spent more than 5 nights in a row in another state before returning to Louisiana.

Mortalities – Mortalities from mid-March through late October included two yearling females, four yearling males, two adult females and one adult male in Louisiana, and one yearling male in Texas. These mortalities included last year’s wild-hatched female LW1-16 and breeding male L14-12.

Current Population Size – As of 25 October 2017, the Louisiana non-migratory population consisted of a maximum of 49 cranes (24 males, 24 females and 1 unknown).

Map showing the long-distance peregrination route of L3-16 (see text on previous page).



Contributed by Eva Szyszkoski, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Twenty-three Juveniles Added to the Louisiana Flock in November and December

Eleven juvenile Whooping Cranes were released November 21, 2017 at the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area in Vermilion Parish. The juveniles were brought to the conservation area on November 9 to begin their acclimation to the wild. Prior to their release, the youngsters were kept in pens covered with netting for observation and to protect them from predators. The 11 birds released at White Lake all came from the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, WI.

Twelve juvenile whooping cranes were released into the wild on December 6 at the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge near Grand Chenier. The 12 cranes had been kept in a holding pen at Rockefeller since November 14. Of the 12 cranes, seven were reared at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland, two were raised at Calgary Zoo in Canada, and three were hatched from eggs collected from the wild in Wisconsin and reared at the Freeport-McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center in New Orleans. (information obtained from KATC.com)

TEXAS MAN CONVICTED OF KILLING WHOOPING CRANES IS HEADED TO PRISON AFTER VIOLATING TERMS OF PROBATION

BEAUMONT, Texas (14 July 2017) – A 20-year-old Beaumont man was sentenced to federal prison for violating the terms of his probation in the Eastern District of Texas, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston today.

Trey Joseph Frederick was sentenced to five years of federal probation in October, 2016 after he pleaded guilty to a violation of the Endangered Species Act. In January, 2016, a Texas Game Warden received two calls reporting that two Whooping Cranes (part of the Louisiana reintroduced flock) had been shot in Jefferson County, Texas. Further investigation revealed that Frederick had been seen in the area with a hunting rifle and claimed to be hunting geese. Federal agents contacted Frederick at his home, where he admitted to killing the cranes.

Today, Frederick was back in federal court facing charges that he violated the terms of his probation for, among other things*, using an AR-15 assault rifle to hunt from a roadway in Jefferson County. The terms of Frederick’s probation specifically prohibited him from owning or possessing firearms, ammunition or any other dangerous weapon. Frederick is also prohibited from hunting or fishing anywhere in the United States. During his court appearance today, U. S.

Magistrate Judge Zack Hawthorn sentenced Frederick to 11 months incarceration to be followed by a one-year term of supervised release.

Acting U.S. Attorney Featherston made the following statement, “Trey Frederick was given the opportunity of probation when he was first convicted of killing two federally protected Whooping Cranes. Apparently, Mr. Frederick did not appreciate the leniency he was given, and today, he learned the consequences. Mr. Frederick will now have 11 months to contemplate his actions.”

This case was investigated by special agents with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, and Game Wardens with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph R. Batte. (*Edited news release, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Texas.*)

*The court also heard that Frederick had not reported regularly to his probation officer, not paid any restitution (\$12,907.50 each to the International Crane Foundation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation), tried to purchase a firearm, and applied for a Montana hunting license.

An Opportunity for Association Members

You can help us as we continue to cooperate with other conservation groups in preserving winter habitat for Whooping Cranes! Coastal properties are expensive. The cost of the 720 acres acquired in Texas in November 2016 (see *Grus Americana* vol. 54. no. 2) was slightly over one million U.S. dollars or \$1,389 per acre. We welcome any amount of money that you are able to donate toward purchase of habitat. When you donate, please indicate that you are contributing for the purchase of habitat. Funds can be donated through our website <http://whoopingcrane.com> or by sending a check to the Whooping Crane Conservation Association, 2139 Kennedy Avenue, Loveland, Colorado, 80538. WCCA is an all-volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation with the purpose of advancing conservation, protection, and propagation of Whooping Cranes. The Association is able to receive funds by gifts, bequests, legacies or transfers and to administer such funds for the benefit of cranes. Donations from U.S. citizens are tax deductible. Thank you for your help for these marvelous birds.

The WCCA wishes to acknowledge the following persons for their special donations for the benefit of Whooping Cranes this past year: **Doris Applebaum, Jill Bee, Charles Bressman, Jr., Mary Rawls Cooke & Richard D. Cooke, Jr., Michael Helsel, Stuart Houston, Judith LeGrand, Mr. & Mrs. Oliver McKinney, Carl Racchini, Howard Telosky, and Charlotte Trego.**

WCCA Membership for 2018

Joining the WCCA is easy and your membership directly benefits North America's tallest bird. With your membership, you will also receive the WCCA newsletter, and we provide you with up-to-date comprehensive news and other items of interest about Whooping Cranes by way of our web site (www.whoopingcrane.com).

Membership Levels, USA and Canada

Annual — \$20.00

Sustaining — \$50.00

Lifetime — \$300.00

Payment can be made online by credit card (via PayPal) through our web site (www.whoopingcrane.com); you do not need a PayPal account to pay by credit card.

For payment of Canadian dues, please send your cheque (payable to *Whooping Crane Conservation Association*) to:

Whooping Crane Conservation Association, Box 995, Indian Head, Saskatchewan, S0G 2K0

For payment of US dues, please send your check to: Whooping Crane Conservation Association, 2139 Kennedy Ave, Loveland, CO, 80538

In Memoriam

Robert H. Horwich

Dr. Robert H. Horwich of Gays Mills, Wisconsin, born on December 31, 1940, in Paterson, New Jersey, died following a brief illness on February 7, 2017, at Gundersen Hospital in La Crosse, WI. Rob always had a keen interest in animals and he devoted his life to their conservation. He received a B.S. from Rutgers University and an M.S. and Ph.D. from University of Maryland. In his dissertation, Rob investigated the social behavior of squirrels. His career spanned obtaining a post-doctoral appointment in India from the Smithsonian Institute, directing the Maryland House Natural History Museum, researching infant primate development at the Brookfield Zoo, developing reintroduction methods at the International Crane Foundation, and founding and directing Community Conservation, Inc.

Rob lived simply and generously, especially after moving to Wisconsin in 1976. Even his rare extravagance was modest: adding an extra sugar pack to a cup of coffee, giving dollar bills to children for cakewalk fundraisers, or buying suitcases full of trinkets. This latter practice was part of Rob's life as an artist; he turned the shiny detritus of consumer society into bizarre, beautiful, irreverent sculpture. Visitors to his humble home on One Quiet Lane were greeted to the likes of plastic action figures glued with geometric arrangements of feathers and tinsel on gaudy Tupperware platters. Rob's affinity for the unconventional allowed him to see solutions when others saw only problems.

When endangered cranes being raised in captivity were losing their wild instincts due to human contact, Rob pioneered the use of puppets and costumes to rear them. When dam construction on the Kickapoo River was abandoned and the repossessed land was being abused and argued over, he saw opportunity to create a community-managed nature reserve. And first in Belize, and then in places around the world, when local people were blamed for loss of wildlife, Rob saw that informed and inspired communities have the power to conserve the beauty and integrity of their homelands. In Belize, Rob realized that the howler monkeys he was studying were disappearing, so he refocused his efforts from academic research to conservation. He worked with local villagers to create the Community Baboon Sanctuary, which became an internationally renowned model for conservation.

Later in his career, in India, Rob refined his simple but profoundly effective method as he worked to conserve forests for an endangered monkey called the Golden Langur. He told local people that their forests were special, he asked for their help conserving the forests, and then helped them to create community groups equipped for this mission. This approach catalyzed interest and pride, and from a few villages, the project proliferated into a federation of groups in 130 villages throughout the region working on Golden Langur conservation. Rob called this process "conservation contagion," and he persisted tirelessly to hasten its spread: in 15 countries Rob worked with 200 communities to conserve 1.5 million acres.

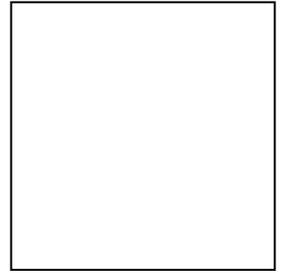
Just weeks before his death, he was working in Cameroon with local communities to conserve habitat for the Cross River gorilla, of which only a few hundred remain in the world. Since Rob consistently sought to catalyze rather than maintain influence, many of his efforts have carried on without him. He authored and co-authored numerous scientific articles and several books, was featured in and helped to produce a number of films, and served on various boards and committees.

Rob will be missed for his gentle and friendly spirit, for his delightfully odd sense of humor, and for his quiet, fierce love of the natural world. He was preceded in death by his parents Edwin N. and Edna M. (Goldstein) Horwich. He is survived by his sister Janet Weinberg and his nieces Lisa and Emily, his community of friends in rural Wisconsin, and a global network of people and places he touched.

Submitted by Janet Weinberg via James Lewis

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Crane dance at a festival in Mongolia. See page 5. Photo by Tom Leiden.