

## Sandhill Crane Stories, 2008

### **The 1918 Marsh Sandhill Family**

The arrival of the Sandhill Cranes is now a regular feature of spring at the Preserve. At the end of February a pair of Sandhill Cranes returned to the 1918 Marsh area and began breeding activities. In July a colt was seen with its parents. The family spent much time in the Eagle Heights Gardens, seemingly unafraid of the people nearby.



Crane Family in Eagle Heights Gardens (G.Denniston)

### **Other Cranes in the Preserve?**

Also in July, Will Walker reported an unusually colored Crane near the Cereals Lab on Walnut Street. At first it was unclear whether it belonged to the 1918 Marsh family, but the description and photographs showed it to be a different individual. It was a young adult Sandhill

Crane, with both juvenile brown feathers and the red head patch of an adult. This bird was seen regularly with a mature companion. Thus there were two Sandhill Crane pairs on campus, although only one pair bred successfully.

### **The Bird with the Hurt Leg**

Soon motorists were reporting just missing a Crane near the Walnut Street Greenhouses. In mid-July a caller reported a Crane with an injured leg. The staff of the School of Veterinary Medicine tried to capture the Crane for treatment, but the Crane eluded its would-be captors. It continued to be seen into the late summer, limping badly but still alive. The family of three continues to do well.



Injured Crane near Band Practice Area (G.Denniston)

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Time to renew October and  
November memberships