

## Notes about my photos of Opal, our new Hooded Crane, hatched at the International Crane Foundation June 2017.

Opal was born on June 12, 2017 at the International Crane Foundation. I was first able to visit ICF on July 2, when Opal was 21 days old. I returned about every week or 10 days to photograph Opal until ICF closed for the season at the end of October. I am a proud and grateful member of ICF.

I am especially drawn to wing, feather, and flight development. This set of Opal photos focuses on those.

Information about Hooded Cranes can be found on the ICF web site:  
<https://www.savingcranes.org/species-field-guide/hooded-crane/>

Cranes. A Natural History of a Bird in Crisis, by Janice M. Hughes, includes the following information about Hooded Cranes:

“The Hooded Crane is a rare species with a notably remote breeding distribution. Consequently, the first active nest was not discovered until 1974, and a small breeding population eluded researchers in China until the 1990s. The global estimate of hooded cranes may be as few as 9,400 individuals.” Hooded Cranes breed primarily in Eastern Siberia. They migrate seasonally to China, Korea and Japan.

There about 30 Hooded Cranes living and protected in North America.

Please support the vital work ICF does saving cranes worldwide:  
<https://www.savingcranes.org/>

I use the camera for storytelling. These photos are taken using automatic settings. I crop photos to match up with the ideal size for viewing on phones, where I think most people can be reached. Crop size is about 850 x 600 px. Once cropped I use the sharpen and contrast features to help make up for the cropping. I use a Canon Rebel T3i with a 70-300 lens.

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