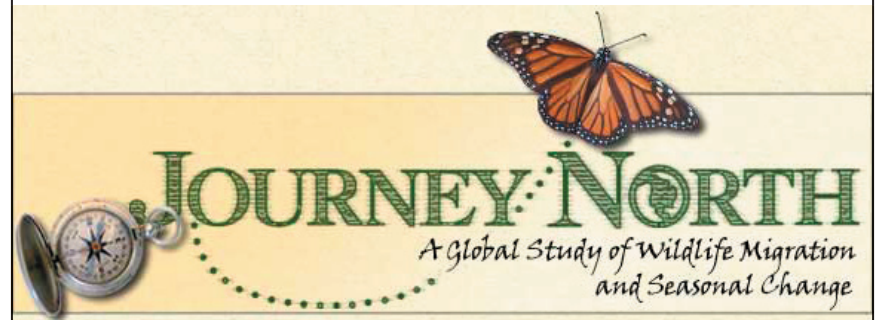




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Meet the New Eastern Flock

by Jane Duden



© Photo Sara Zimorski, WCEP

Meet #412!

Names for Cranes

Cranes in the new Eastern Flock are real characters! You'll discover that each bird has its own personality. Many of the cranes remind the pilots and crane handlers of people they know. They include braves and bullies, rebels and sweeties, heroes and cranks.

The "ultrachicks" are named for their **hatch year** and hatch order. Hatch year came first until 2010. After that, names began with hatch order first, then year.

Do you see the big bump on #412's face?

1

It's an insect bite. He needed medicine for weeks. When he got tired of it, he had to be held and force-fed the medicine. Argh! Even so, he never got scared or distrustful of the white costume. He kept on being the best flyer and follower in his group. What a trooper!



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Who's Who?

How can pilots tell the birds apart? Each bird wears different color-coded leg bands. See banding codes for each crane on its bio page on the Web. See each crane's life story all through its life. Meet the flock!

2



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Why is #418 wearing a hood?

Feathers Not So Fit

Chick #418 had feather troubles. Two weeks before migration, his stubby, streaked **primary feathers** didn't yet provide enough lift to fly. Did he fly south with his flockmates?

Chick #9 from hatch year 2001 could not migrate when her primary feathers were **malformed**. What was her fate?

Find answers in each crane's bio page.



© Photo Marianne Wellington, WCEP

#214 chased by #313

Bullies in the Bunch

Each bird has its own place within the flock. Bullies appear every year. Some birds just don't like other ones. Older cranes often act **aggressive** toward younger ones. Crane #810 was so mean he got expelled from the Class of 2008!

Cranes work out their social order on the ground AND in the air. The pilots pay attention to that **pecking order**. When a large group of cranes flies in formation behind a trike, two squabbling birds could upset the entire **flight formation**. When they all stay in their order, each gets help from the air rolling off the wings ahead of them.

Guess Who?

Imagine you are a crane tracker. Who this whooper?

Clue #1: Green-over-white radio transmitter bands on the left leg. (The right leg is tucked up into roost position.)



Clue #2: No traces of tawny brown feathers tell us it's an adult.

Bonus Clue: SHE likes to be alone.

An Independent Female

If you said #107, you're right. She left her flockmates during their first journey north. She migrated back to Wisconsin all by herself. She keeps to herself ever since. See the bio pages for her story and the others in her class. How many flew south with the ultralights in that first year? How many returned in spring? What happened to the others? Answers are at "Meet the Flock, 2001."



Use Your Cranium (and the Web)

Sometimes the adult birds from earlier years, like these 2002 adults, stake out the training strip. After all, it was THEIR territory first! You can find every eastern crane's banding code and life story on their bio page. Meet the flock!

- Which 2007 crane was removed to captivity for going too close to humans?
- In 2006, which crane pair hatched the Eastern flock's very first wild-born chicks?
- How did litter nearly kill #312?
- Which 2007 male was lost for six days on his first journey south?
- How many birds will the ultralights lead south on their first migration this year?