

rumped and Pine Warblers do eat seeds as well as berries. Osborne's statement that warblers are not supposed to eat seeds is not accurate. (See Rodewald et al. 1999, Bent 1953).

• J. Epler (1994) observed a Yellow-throated Warbler feeding on unhulled sunflower seeds at a Wakulla feeder throughout January 1994 in Florida.

• Vincent Schippa (2000) observed a Yellow-throated Warbler at a feeder 3 December 2000 at East Northport, Suffolk County, N.Y. The warbler was last seen 27 December 2000; it is unknown what type of feeder the warbler visited.

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In Memory: Juvenile Whooping Cranes

Birders were saddened to learn of the loss of the 17 juvenile Whooping Cranes from Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) 2006 Ultralight led migration. The young birds died at their pen on the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge as a result of the violent storms that swept through Florida during the evening and early morning of 1 February and 2 Feb 2007.

Fortunately, one of the 18 birds in that group escaped the storm and is now doing well in habitats inland. Other survivors from the 2006 release group include three young whooping cranes that were part of WCEP's methods of direct autumn release (DAR). DAR birds are released to adult cranes on the breeding grounds in early fall; the older birds lead the chicks south on migration.

Illinois birders have been witnessing migration of banded adult Whooping Cranes the past several years due to federal and other efforts to keep this species from becoming extinct.

Gary Cole was able to photograph two cranes in spring in Illinois last season. Here's his story:



“On 15 April 2006 I learned that a pair of Whooping Cranes had been seen southwest of Lake Charleston near the Embarras River in Coles County.

I visited the site meeting other birders and sure enough they were there. It began to rain so we left, but the next morning (Easter Sunday) I returned and they were still there. I had the good luck to photograph them and also hear their loud bugling calls.”

— Gary Cole

Editor's Note: For more Whooping Crane photos in a different part of the state, see page 147.