

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species? Sandhill Crane

How Many? 1 imm.

Location? pond n. of Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.

Habitat? small pond with open water and captive waterfowl

Date? 18 Dec 1988 (was present from 12 Dec 1988-10+ Jan 1989)

Time? 7:55-8:10 a.m. on 12 Dec

Observers Name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames

Others who saw bird: m.ob.

Description of bird: On all dates, the bird was seen standing with Canada Geese on the ice around the pond. The bird was roughly the same size as the Canada Geese (giant race), except that the neck and legs were longer. The legs were dark and several times as long as the legs of the geese. The head, neck, body, and wings were slate gray with patchy areas of light brown. These brown areas were most noticeable on the crown, back, and wings. The bill was long, slender, straight, and dark colored. In flight, the bird flew with very stiff wingbeats and the neck and legs were held outstretched. I did not hear the bird call. The lack of a red crown identified the bird as an immature Sandhill Crane.

Similar species and how eliminated: The size, long legs and neck, gray and brown body color, bill shape, and flight behavior eliminate all herons and Whooping Crane.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent on all dates. Estimated viewing distance was as close as 40 yards. I used Bausch and Lomb 8x40 binoculars.

Previous experience with species: I have seen numerous Sandhill Cranes in Iowa and elsewhere. I am also familiar with all herons.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes were made? none made

How long before this form was completed? immediately after first observation