

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Sandhill Crane How many? 2Location? East of Big Spirit LakeType of habitat? Corn field- PickedWhen? date(s): Dec.12 and Dec.28,1988 time: 4:15 to 5:00 pmWho? your name and address: Ed Thelen RRBox 7414-A Spirit Lake, Iowa 51401

others with you: _____

others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Observed two large, long-necked, long-legged birds standing in a field of picked corn about 150 yds. from the road. They were much larger than several Canada geese which were feeding in the same field.

Their large size, uniform grey plumage and tufted rear end identified them as sandhill cranes. Observed with 8x power binoculars for 15 min. and then returned home to retrieve my camera. Arrived back about 15 min. and observed them for another 15 min. They seemed to be feeding.

Similar species and how eliminated: -Large size, tufted rear end and habitat eliminated great blue heron.
- Color eliminated whooping crane

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Good, clear conditions. 8x35 binoculars
Camera w/800 mm lens

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Saw sandhill cranes a out west and earlier this fall saw one on

References and persons consulted before writing description: N. end of East Okoboji lake.
Birds of North America- Robbins, Braun, Zim and SingerHow long before field notes made? 1 day this form completed? 3 daysMAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52240