

Sandhill Crane - 1 March 2, 1985

DPL Settling Pond, Council Bluffs, Iowa

Description: Big gray bird with long neck and moderately short bill. Gray above + below. ~~B~~ Primaries ~~that~~ darker than the body. Flew a long way with neck straight.

Similar species: Great Blue Heron. has longer bill, neck in S-curve.

Viewing conditions: 8x binoculars. ~~I~~ I had 3 teenagers in the car + took few notes. Bird flew up + went up high + left to the north. I didn't get a good look. Then went south + we saw it well, though for less than a minute.

Other observers: Matt Towne, John Bakehouse, Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse. We discussed Crane + looked it up in the field guide between our two sightings of it. They agreed with the identification. But would they have disagreed?

Written June 2 from skimpy notes taken March 2, just after the bird left.

- Barbara Wilson
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