

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What Species? *Sandhill Crane* How many? *1*

Location? *1/2 mile east of New Albin, Iowa and 1/2 mile south of Minnesota border in extreme Northeast Allamakee County, Iowa*

Type of Habitat? *Mixed Riparian woods and open marsh*

When? date(s)? *Easter Sunday, March 30, 1986* time: *10:30 AM to 10:40 AM*

Who? your name and address: *Ric Zarwell 520 East Morningside Drive Burlington, Iowa 52601*

others with you: *son Rob - same address 319-752-7428*

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A single sandhill crane flew directly over my son and I at approximately 500-600 feet altitude. Neck + legs were obviously extended and red forehead could be seen as bird circled. The distinctive call was heard 6-8 times. I have heard the call and observed this bird many times in the past. There is absolutely no doubt as to what I was seeing. Light conditions were excellent.

Similar species and how eliminated: *eliminated Whooping Crane at once - due to coloration.*

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? *NO. My son saw the bird and field marks I described to him*

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: *10X50 Binoculars used, day was bright and cloud free, distance is an estimate*

Previous experience with this and similar species: *Have observed thousands in and around Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Oregon and small numbers numerous times in Central Wis.*

How long before field notes made?

How long before this form completed? *May 3, 1986*

Last observed during Christmas vacation 1985 at several locations in Florida.