

What species? Sandhill Cranes How many? 2

Location? Lylah's Marsh - 3 1/2 mi. NW of Elma, Ia.-Howard Co.

Type of Habitat? Marsh and prairies wetland- arrowhead and mud flats

When? date(s): July 23, 1988 time: 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Who? your name and address: Mary Jo Hartogh, R#2 Box 115, Elma, IA 50628

Others with you: Pat Heidenreich, Marquette, IA and members of Upper IA Audubon

Others before or after you: None that I know of

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.

First seen in flight and recognized by Pat. They flew with outstretched necks and had washes of reddish brown on their bodies. Pat had just been to Kearney, Neb. for the Audubon meeting and was sure. I had a desire for a better look so we hiked to the north end. They were in the arrowhead plants with their necks and heads sticking up. We set up the scopes and could see the long gray necks with the bright red caps on top and black bills. They came out enough to see one's body was stained dark reddish brown while the other one was mostly grey.

Similar species; how eliminated:

We had all kinds of blue heron to compare with right there on the spot; the markings and coloration and outstretched necks could only be sandhills.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
Clear, sunny day with sun at our backs. Bushnell Spacemaster II with 22X wide angle lense

Previous experience with species and similar ones:
Six weeks ago in Wisc.- Crex Meadows

References and persons consulted before writing description:
IOWA BIRDS + NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

How long before field notes made? 1 da. this form completed? 8 da.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).