

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Sandhill Crane How many? 1 1Location? N. End of East Okoboji, DICKINSON COUNTYType of habitat? Natural Lake - FrozenWhen? date(s): Nov. 28 1988 time: 4:00 to 4:20Who? your name and address: Ed Thelen Spirit Lake, IA. 51360others with you: yes - 3 other fellow DNR employees

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.

I received a phone call from fellow employee DAN Lempienen saying a crane had landed on the ice on East Okoboji Lake. When I arrived I observed a large, long-necked, long-legged bird standing on the ice next to 100+ Canada Geese that were standing on the ice about 100 yards off shore from the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery. It was standing on one leg. Its large size, straight neck, uniform grey plumage and tufted rear end identified it immediately as a sandhill crane.

After observing bird for 10-15 minutes it flew off, holding its neck straight out with legs trailing.

DAN Lempienen said he observed similar bird on NOV. 26, ¹⁹⁸⁸ at the NORTH END of Spirit Lake in Anglers Bay.

Similar species and how eliminated: straight neck eliminated Great Blue Heron and color eliminated Whooping Crane

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

POOR FOR COLOR - Cloudy Estimated Used 7X35
low light Distance bimoculars and

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Observed species at Yellowstone National Park Camera w/ 800 mm lens

References and persons consulted before writing description:

BIRDS OF N. AMERICA - ROBBINS, BRUNN
ZIM + SINGER

How long before field notes made? 24 hrs this form completed? 24 hrsMAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52240