

Fall 1984 - Iowa

Barb Wilson

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Seen with John + Jeanne - Marne Bakehouse Oct 20

1984

Sandhill Crane 1 Oct 20, 21, 24  
Willow Slough (Oct 20, 24) + Wilson farm, NE  
Mills County, Iowa (Oct 21)

<sup>Oct 20</sup>  
Description: Tall gray bird with long legs + a bill that wasn't long. Top of head red. Face white.

Description (Oct 21): Flying over the farm fairly high. I wouldn't have seen it but it called ~~fairly~~ fairly often, the rolling bugle of cranes. Very large bird with long wings, parallel front + back, rounded at the tips. Long legs, held so you could see the space between the legs (beyond the tail) but the toes were together. Neck long + outstretched the whole time, + ~~sometimes~~ the bird ~~turned~~ the head at times. Gray with wingtips black. Wings darker in the "wing pit" area. Legs darker than body. Flies with slow ~~flaps~~ flaps + brief glides.

Oct 24: Surely you don't want to hear it again! At Willow Slough, on the ground.

Behavior: Oct 20: Standing, sometimes preening. He stayed longer than we did. Oct 24: Flew over going north west. Later I heard it again - it had ~~turned~~ turned back east. Oct 24: Fed in a grassy area by the slough, then waded out to Pelicans + preened by them.

Similar species: Differs in several ways from Great Blue Heron.

Viewing conditions: 20x scope, OK distance, looking N or E in late afternoon at slough. 8x binocs at home. No books written from notes taken at the times - Barb Wilson