

Whooping Crane

31 Oct 1972

10 miles north of Clinton, Clinton Co., IA

George Aurand

Petersen 1972

Record Number: 81-MQ

Classification: A-D

REFERENCE

Petersen, P.C. 1972. Whooping Crane in Clinton County. IBL
42:98.

VOTE (1981): 7-III

III, Description fits. Uneasy about secondhand reports.

III, details fit.

III, one obs.

III, possible, description OK, 1 observer.

III, Similar situation to 1. Red cheek patch and closeness of
observation virtually clinches identification, along with
observer experience with similar species. Incredibly far east,
however.

81-14Q

Petersen, P. C., 1972, Whooping Crane in Clinton County. Iowa Bird Life 42:98

Whooping Crane in Clinton County -- On October 31, 1972, Dr. George Aurand of Clinton saw an adult Whooping Crane about ten miles north of Clinton. Dr. Aurand, a new I. O. U. member, saw the bird circle over a pond on property which he and several other Clinton men are developing as a hunting area. He had been hunting earlier in the morning of October 31 but by eleven he was observing the many migrating sparrows feeding on the millet along the pond edge. He noticed a large white bird with black wingtips approaching from the south. Using 7 X 50 binoculars he discerned a red cheek patch as well as the long neck and long trailing legs. The bird circled north of the pond and returned with deliberate wingbeats to the direction from which it had come after flying almost directly over his head at a minimum range of forty yards. The bird was under observation for several minutes and the sky was overcast with a westerly wind. A strong frontal system had moved across Iowa several days prior to the observation and may have forced the bird eastward. He wrote the author and a phone call confirmed the observation. Dr. Aurand is very experienced with waterfowl and pelicans and never had any doubt regarding his identification. -- PETER C. PETERSEN, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport.

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