

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/28/00

Whooping Crane

11 Apr 1999

north of Essex, Page Co., IA

\*Edwards

IBL 69:95, 70:145

Record Number: 99-12

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Chris Edwards, 85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty 52317

Loren J. Padelford & Ross Silcock, 12 Apr, e-mail notes

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 69:95

Records Committee: IBL 70:145

VOTE: 6 A-D, 1 no vote recorded

99-12

## DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

**Species:** Whooping Crane

**Number:** 3

**Location:** North of Essex in northwestern Page County Iowa

**Habitat:** Flooded agricultural field

**Date and time:** April 11, 12:45 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.

**Name and address:** Chris Edwards, 85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty, IA 52317

**Others with you:** Mary Edwards

**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.**

Very tall, long-legged wading birds. There were no other birds nearby for size comparison, but they appeared to be larger than a Sandhill Crane or Great Blue Heron. Immaculate white plumage except for black primary tips seen in flight, and red and black facial markings. The facial markings consisted of a blackish moustachial stripe and a black forehead grading to bright red on the crown. The bill was long and straight, and appeared gray in color. The legs were black. The birds were seen foraging in a field. No vocalizations were heard.

**Similar species eliminated:** Sandhill Cranes are smaller, gray, and lack a moustachial stripe and black primaries.

**Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification?** No.

**Viewing conditions:** Estimated 300 yards, overcast, viewed with 8x40 binoculars and 15x telescope.

**Previous experience with species and similar ones:** I have seen Whooping Cranes on one trip to Texas and have seen many Sandhill Cranes. I also saw six Whooping Cranes earlier in the day in Harrison Co.

**References and persons consulted before writing description:** *National Geographic* field guide.

**How long before field notes made:** During observation.

**How long before this form completed:** 5 hours.

99-12

Subj: **Re: Fw: Garganey (Iowa)**  
Date: 4/12/99 9:50:04 PM Central Daylight Time  
From: lpdifrd@JUNO.COM (Loren J. Padelford)  
Sender: IA-BIRD@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG (Bird discussion list for Iowa)  
Reply-to: IA-BIRD@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG (Bird discussion list for Iowa)  
To: IA-BIRD@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG

Hi Birders:

An addendum to Ross's comments below. We spoke with Mindy Sheets at DeSoto NWR this afternoon, and she said she saw the Whoopers fly over the headquarters about 11:00 am heading north. When they encountered a flock of cormorants flying south, they turned around and followed them back. However, the refuge people couldn't find them again, and thought they probably had left the area.

We were at Forney Lake this evening at 7 p.m. and saw the Garganey-Blue-winged Teal trio. It'll be interesting to see what happens next!

Babs & Loren Padelford  
Bellevue, NE  
lpdifrd@juno.com

On Mon, 12 Apr 1999 20:21:50 -0500 Ross Silcock  
<silcock@SIDNEY.HEARTLAND.NET> writes:  
>From the below, looks like the Essex whoopers departed about 11 am, as  
>they  
>were seen by Russ Widner before 11 am and Neva would have arrived  
>about  
>then. Neva said the DeSoto whoopers had left also.  
>BUT: the Garganey is still there, still trying to contribute genes to  
>the  
>Blue-wing pool. I suspect that if copulation was seen the female BW  
>Teal  
>will lay at Forney Lake. Is that true? Wouldn't air turbulence be a  
>little  
>rough on egg formation???

>Ross  
>  
>  
>Ross Silcock  
>Tabor, IA  
>silcock@sidney.heartland.net  
>New Zealand Land and Pelagic Trips. Next: Nov 1999  
>

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Return-Path: <owner-ia-bird@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG>

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