







248-02-1994

PORC

Sighting of Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) at Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery County - John Puschock, 1030 Macungie Avenue, Emmaus, PA 18049-1627

I was birding the wet brushy area around Green Lane Reservoir near Church Road on 6 October 1994. At about 1045 EST, I heard a loud, stuttered call that I did not recognize so I started to walk out of the brushy area to see what was calling. When I got to the shore, I saw a very large wader standing in shallow water near a mudflat. The bird was similar in size and shape to a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), but its tail had the "bustle" characteristic of a crane. I watched the bird for about two minutes with 10x40 Bausch & Lomb binoculars. The bird then took off at approximately 1100 EST. It circled for a few minutes, continuously gaining altitude, and then flew off to the west. It held its neck outstretched the entire time it was in flight. The weather was mostly sunny with a slight haze and seasonally warm. I did not record a specific temperature nor wind speed and direction. The bird was somewhat backlit. A description follows:

GENERAL APPEARANCE: A long-legged wader, very similar to a Great Blue Heron, but with a bustle-shaped tail.

HEAD: Red patch from the base of the bill to the crown. Neutral gray (similar to a photographic gray card) on the nape and the neck. A whitish area on the cheek. Eye color was not noted.

UPPERPARTS: All of the upperparts appeared to be a neutral gray (observations on a later date revealed brown spots on the wings).

UNDERPARTS: All of the underparts appeared to be a neutral gray

TAIL: Bustle-shaped, neutral gray.

BARE PARTS: Bill was the same shape as the bill of a Great Blue Heron, color was black. Long legs were also black.

The bird was seen by many observers for a month. The last sighting I am aware of was on 6 November 1994.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

Date of Sighting: 6 October 1994 to 6 November 1994

Location: GREEN LANE RESERVOIR

County: MONTGOMERY

Observer(s): John Puschock (W)

Jim Hovancik (Photo)

Date of Submission: 1994

Submitted by: John Puschock

Written Description: YES Photo: YES Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes	X							
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe	X							
S. Feldstein	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary): *J. C. Haas*

Date: 9-19-95