

207-01-1995

Sandhill Crane

Grus canadensis

Location: about 4 miles south of McKean, Erie County

Date: May 16, 1995

Time: 6:30 to 7:00 PM

Weather: Mostly clear

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular and TSN 4 Kowa scope 30X

Details of sighting and description: I received a call from Louise Chambers who reported a Sandhill Crane standing in the middle of a corn stubble field on May 13. It was seen again in the same field the next two days by several other people. When I arrived at the field on the evening of May 16, it was there. It was an adult and was heavily stained. The bare red forecrown was obvious. The bill was black, long, and straight and relatively thick at the base. The neck was long and sinuous with no kink as in Great Blue Heron, and it narrowed somewhat about midway down before thickening at the base. The upper portion of the neck was gray and the lower half became rusty stained as well as most of the breast wings and underside. The legs were black. The tail was short and there was a rusty stained bustle above the tail.

The bird stood fairly still for many minutes before it took a few steps. It seemed very nervous and when a Great Blue Heron flew by, it flew in the direction of the Great Blue Heron as if to join it. In flight the long outstretched neck and legs as well as the shallow wing beat of the crane were quite different from the slow and deep wing beats of the Great Blue Heron that held its neck in. The separated primaries of the Sandhill Crane was also quite different from the tightly closed primaries of the heron.

The Sandhill Crane was last seen in this area on May 20.

See photograph.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Sandhill Crane (Grus canadensis)**

Date of Sighting: **16 May 1995 to 16 May 1995**

Location: **NEAR MCKEAN**

County: **ERIE**

Observer(s): **Jerry McWilliams**

Date of Submission: **1995**

Submitted by: **Jerry McWilliams**

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. Haas

Date:

5-1-96