



248-01-1997

SENECA ROCKS AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRD SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION GUIDE

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of rare or unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all except as a guide. Attach additional sheets as necessary. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. The following checklist can be used to remind yourself of items that you want to include in this report. Not all of these points will be seen, nor are they all necessary to correctly identify a species, but not including something you saw lessens the value of your documentation. PLEASE REPORT WHAT WAS SEEN, NOT WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN.

SIZE, SHAPE, AND PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

- Give size compared to a common bird
- Shape (warbler, thrush, hawk, etc.)
- Head: colors and pattern
- Eye: color, ring, stripe, lore, brow
- Bill: length, color
- Legs: color, length, toes (number, type)
- Upperparts: nape (neck), back, rump
- Tail: colors, shape, pattern, length
- Underparts: throat, breast, belly, flanks, vent
- Wings: colors, wingbars, length, wing linings, shape

N/A Parts of bird that couldn't be seen

BEHAVIOR:

- Posture
- Feeding method
- Flight pattern
- Vocalization
- Preening or sleeping
- Other species present - rail, sora, shorebirds
- Interactions with other birds

N/A Nesting (building, brooding, etc.)

NUMBER, SEX, AGE:

- Number of birds
- Sex by plumage or behavior
- Age by plumage or behavior

LOCATION:

- Place name (town, park, SGL, etc.)
- County and State
- Habitat (field, woods, water, plants, etc.)

CONDITIONS:

- Time of day
- Temperature
- Sky/cloud cover
- Precipitation/snow cover
- Water (depth, waves, % ice) 1-2 ft or less
- Wind (speed, direction)
- Moon phase ?
- Sun (location in relation to you and bird)

1 1/2 hr Length of sighting
40-50 yds Distance to bird as close as 20 when 1st seen

- Optics (binos, scope, power of each)
- Experience with this species, years birding
- How were similar species eliminated?
- Field guide used (during and after sighting)
- Was description written from notes made during observation, notes made after observation, or memory? Was field guide used prior to writing field notes?

YES Other observers (are they reporting?) I don't know.
 Sketch or photograph (sketches, no matter how basic, are extremely useful)

SPECIES SANDHILL CRANE DATE SIGHTED MAY 4th 1997

SIZE, SHAPE, AND PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

Smaller than a Great Blue Heron, overall grayish brown color, Red top head and lighter cheek (face), long dagger-like beak, bustle feathers on rump, bill dark, long dark legs - underwings lighter colored.

Flew with neck extended and straight, call was guttural and croaking. The bird seemed to be hanging close to a large goose (I think the goose was protecting its nest)

Only similine species is whooping - not white, or GBH - coloration, call + flight WERE different!

SEE PHOTOS - Feel free to print!

BEHAVIOR:

The bird seemed to be gleaning as it waded in the marsh. It called once, took off and then circled. It landed, I observed it preening and resting, then it was spooked by 2 fishermen. It called again, took off, circled and landed behind the railroad tracks, probably on the creek. I drove by 10 minutes later, and it was back in the marsh.
NUMBER, SEX, AND AGE: 1 Adult.

LOCATION: CURTAIN MARSH PROJECT, CENTRE COUNTY, 1 mile north of Milesburg exit of I 80 on RT 150

CONDITIONS, TIME, WEATHER, OPTICS, EXPERIENCE:

IT WAS SUNNY, WITH SOME WIND FROM 5:30 PM TO ≈ 7:00 PM I USED MY LEICA Bx 42, AND AN OLYMPUS DM10 WITH A 200 MM ZOOM LENS. FILM WAS 400, F4.5, SHUTTER 1/1000 SEC. I HAVE SEEN SANDHILL CRANES OUT WEST, IN MICHIGAN, AND FLORIDA; AS WELL AS PA.

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, DATE OF WRITE-UP:

John G. FEDAK
221 Washington Street
New Bethlehem, Pa 16242
814 275 4086

5-4-97

248-01-1997

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

Date of Sighting: 4 May 1997 to 29 May 1997

Location: CURTIN VILLAGE

County: CENTRE

Observer(s): Bob Snyder

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Bob Snyder

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							
P. Schwalbe	X							
K. Parkes	X							
R. Ickes	X							
P. Hess	X							
J. McWilliams	X							
T. Floyd	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J C Hess

Date:

4-19-97