

248-02-1997

## 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
- Parts of bird that couldn't be seen

### BEHAVIOR:

- Posture
- Feeding method
- Flight pattern
- Vocalization
- Preening or sleeping
- Other species present
- Interactions with other birds
- 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)
- Wind (speed, direction)
- Moon phase
- Sun (location in relation to you and bird)
- Length of sighting
- Distance to bird
- 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?
- Other observers (are they reporting?)
- Sketch or photograph (sketches, no matter how basic, are extremely useful)

SPECIES Sandhill Crane DATE SIGHTED 3/27/97

### SIZE, SHAPE, AND PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

Two birds flying overhead, <100 feet above. Long neck sticking out & long legs trailing behind. Heard them croak. Knew immediately what they were from previous experience. Two Great Blue Herons had flown over immediately before the cranes. The Cranes caught everybody by complete surprise.

BEHAVIOR:

flew overhead & circled, different than Herons.

NUMBER, SEX, AND AGE:

2 -

LOCATION:

Beaver Creek Parking Lot, Salem Township, <sup>Knox,</sup> Clarion Co., PA

CONDITIONS, TIME, WEATHER, OPTICS, EXPERIENCE:

7pm. TB Walter & Annabelle <sup>Eye & Mike & Ashby sighted them at same time.</sup> saw thousands in Texas & Florida recently. (Saw ones nested at Mercer Co). <sup>NO.</sup> Naked eye - no field glasses. Not quite dark - birds were watching for Am Woodcock.

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

4/11/97 (Dictated to MB by W.F.)

Walter S. Toe  
RD # 2

814-797-1800 B

Knox Pa 16232

1019 H

Michael R. Leahy

PO. Box 15  
Knox, Pa. 16232  
814-797-2287

## Documentation of Sighting

Date of Report  
4/2/97

**Sighting Date:** 3/27/97

**Species:** Sandhill Crane

**Scientific Name:** *Grus canadensis*

**Number Seen:** 2

**Place:** Beaver Creek

**City:** Knox

**County:** Clarion

**State:** PA

**Nation:** usa

**Habitat:** Flying

**Record Number:** 312

Observed these birds along with Walt & Annabelle Fye just at dark while listening to woodcock. The Cranes flew directly over our heads approx. 25 ft. up. They were definitely larger than Great Blue Herons, and were flying with head & neck outstretched.

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SPECIES SANDHILL CRANE DATE SIGHTED 3-30

### SIZE, SHAPE, AND PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

Some were brownish - not great Blue Herons,  
had bustle, 1 bird had beginnings of red on  
crown. The plumage indicated immature birds

BEHAVIOR:

warning song and feeding in a corn field

NUMBER, SEX, AND AGE:

2 - 2 immatures, but 1 getting red in crown

LOCATION:

3 miles west of Shipperville along side of Rt 322 about 2/10 mile past Oak Grove Bar in Clarion County

CONDITIONS, TIME, WEATHER, OPTICS, EXPERIENCE:

I have good experience with these birds. My lighting was good, not much wind. I used book lens Ex 42 and Kowa TSN 2 on them. This was about 4:15 pm

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

3-30-97

John Feak  
221 Washington St  
New Bethlehem

Pa 16242

(814) 275 4086

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round Two**

Species: Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

Date of Sighting: 27 March 1997 to 27 March 1997

Location: SALEM TOWNSHIP

County: CLARION

Observer(s): Walter Fye

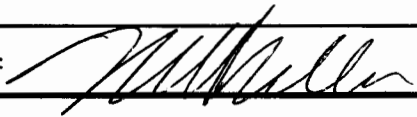
Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Walter Fye

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess				X				
R. Ickes			X					
J. McWilliams				X				
F. Haas			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
TOTALS			3	2	1			1
DECISION				X				

Comments: 2 different records, 3/3/1  
 3/27/97  
 3/30/97

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 5/24/00

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

Date of Sighting: 27 March 1997 to 27 March 1997

Location: SALEM TWP

County: CLARION

Observer(s): Walter Fye

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Walter Fye

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

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		2	3	2				
DECISION								

Comments:

Second Round

Signature (Secretary):

*F. Haas*

Date:

4-19-99