

248-04-1997

**Sandhill Crane**  
*Grus canadensis*

**Location:** Avonia Corners in Fairview Twp, Erie County

**Date:** December 3, 1997

**Time:** 12:05 PM

**Weather:** cloudy (altostratus) wind southwesterly to about 10 mph

**Observer:** Jerry McWilliams

**Optics:** none available at time of sighting

**Viewing distance:** about 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile away

**Details of sighting & description:** On my way back from working at the mouth of Trout Run, I was driving south on Rt. 98 north of Rt. 5 when three large birds caught my attention. I looked up to see two Sandhill Cranes flying close to each other and a single bird flying about 50 feet away from the two flying together. They were flying about 1/2 mile above the ground in a northeasterly direction. I could not see any color on the birds as they were silhouetted against the pale gray clouds. I pulled the truck off the side of the road and watched them fly out of sight. All three birds appeared larger than a Great Blue Heron. They had long necks that were outstretched and narrowed towards the middle and then widened towards the base of the head. There was no kink in the neck which is typical of herons with outstretched necks. Their bills were straight and dagger-like. Their legs were fully extended behind them and at least their feet and tarsus extended beyond their short tails. Their wings were long and they flapped with shallow wing beats. Their outer primaries remained separated resembling long fingers as they flapped their wings. The entire time they were in view they did not stop flapping their wings.

I have seen many Sandhill Cranes in Pennsylvania and most of them have been in flight.



## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

Date of Sighting: 3 December 1997 to 3 December 1997

Location: AVON CORNERS

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDS NO

| Member        | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A |            |            |         | Abstain |
|---------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
|               |         |          |           |            | Class IV-B | Class IV-C | Class V |         |
| D. Couchman   |         |          | X         |            |            |            |         |         |
| T. Floyd      |         |          |           |            |            |            |         | X       |
| P. Hess       |         |          | X         |            |            |            |         |         |
| R. Ickes      |         |          | X         |            |            |            |         |         |
| J. McWilliams |         |          | X         |            |            |            |         |         |
| B. Reid       |         |          | X         |            |            |            |         |         |
| P. Rodewald   |         |          | X         |            |            |            |         |         |
| TOTALS        |         |          | 6         |            |            |            |         | 1       |
| DECISION      |         |          | X         |            |            |            |         |         |

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Date:

10/8/00