

**PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE**  
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

12 February 2002

Scott Bastian  
172 Bethany Road  
Somerset, PA 15501

Dear Scott,

Thank you for submitting documentation on two reports from Somerset County: the Ross's Goose at Indian Lake on 26 November 1999 and the Sandhill Cranes observed by Dan Jenkins on 2 April 1998. After careful review, the Committee regrets that it has voted not to accept these records.

**Ross's Goose:** The vote was one member for and six against acceptance. Those who did not favor accepting the identification categorized it as "a record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of the observer's identification; the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt."

The committee felt in general that details diagnostic of the species may not have been possible to see because of the distance and weather conditions. As Ross's Goose continues its swift population growth, hybrid Snow x Ross's geese are becoming increasingly common, and the Committee believes that Ross's needs to be separated from these hybrids as well as from Snow Goose more conclusively than the observation allowed.

**Sandhill Cranes:** Members' opinions were divided, and the record went for two rounds of balloting (which is partly why a decision was delayed so long). Ultimately the vote was one in favor of acceptance and six not in favor.

Those who voted against accepting the record expressed concern that the three brief details, "red on top of head," "bustle tail," and "different look entirely than a Great Blue Heron" were not sufficient for for a diagnostic identification, considering that a basic gray color was not described.

Non-acceptance does not mean the Committee believes these were not correctly identified, but rather that the details did not support the identification conclusively. We hope that this will not discourage you from submitting reports on any future rarities.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:

Paul Hess, Chairman

Record # 112-03-1999 (Ross's Goose), 248-01-1998 (Sandhill Cranes)

10 November 1998

Scott F. Bastian  
102 Harding St.  
Kittanning, PA 16201  
(724) 543-5427

Daniel Jenkins  
PA Game Commission  
P.O. Box A  
Ligonier, PA 15658

Howdy Dan;

Hope all is well with you – it's been a while since I've seen you. I expect to be moving back down to the area relatively soon (this summer?) so will probably run into you more often then.

I've served as compiler for Somerset County for the magazine Pennsylvania Birds for about 4 years now and submit a quarter report 4x/ year for the county sightings. You're likely familiar with this group as I include some of your sightings from time to time that I get from Tony Marich. I've enclosed some checklists that my wife & I made up for the county recently that I thought you might enjoy. If you'd like, I can get you a 'proof' or master copy that you could make copies from. I've had the list reviewed by some local birders and also by Bob Leberman of Powdermill. The list contains a comprehensive summary of all species documented in the county.

You may notice that Sandhill Crane is not on the list! I understand that you & Tim Flanagan (sp?) recently saw a couple of these birds in the county (April?). I know of no other sightings ever recorded for the county (none listed in Warren's, Todd's, or Poole's volumes & none known by the Powdermill Bobs) so you had a pretty good sighting indeed. Since these birds have been breeding lately in the northwest commonwealth, I've been expecting them to turn up in Somerset County sooner or later. Being that it is a first county record, I'd really like to have some specifics documented on these birds. Not a lot needed, but a written submission is considered standard. I summarized the info below that I want and you can just rip it off and return in the enclosed envelope if you would, please. Please give me a call if you get any more birds that hot! Thanks for the help. I'll highlight the sighting in my next quarter report.

Regards,

Scott Bastian

Bird: **Sandhill Crane(s)**

Location: Approximately 1/2 (one Half) mile east of Brotherton crossroads.

SOMERSET CO

Date/Time/Weather: April 2nd 1998 approximately 2:30 to 3:00PM clear weather

Observers: Wildlife Conservation Officers Tim Flanagan and Daniel Jenkins

Brief Description (points that clinch the ID); 221 Ritchey Ave. 1160 Brotherton Road  
Bedford, 15522 Berlin 15530

The red on top of head was clearly visable. Bustle tail and different look entirely than a great blue her

Other Points (e.g. did they vocalize? # birds seen?): Two birds seen together. No vocalization.

248-01-1998

1968

4-2-98

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

Date of Sighting: 2 April 1998 to 2 April 1998

Location: BROTHERTAN

County: SOMERSET

Observer(s): Daniel Jenkins

Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: Daniel Jenkins

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES      PHOTO NO      SPECIMEN NO      RECORDING 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			3	1	2			1
DECISION								

Comments: 3/3/1      2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 10/8/00

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round Two**

Species: Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

Date of Sighting: 2 April 1998 to 2 April 1998

Location: BROTHERTAN

County: SOMERSET

Observer(s): Daniel Jenkins

Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: Daniel Jenkins

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

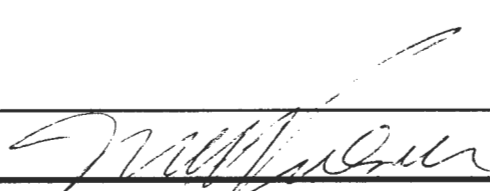
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
D. Couchman					X			
G. Armistead					X			
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes					X			
J. McWilliams				X				
B. Reid					X			
P. Rodewald					X			
TOTALS			1	1	5			
DECISION					X			

Comments: 1/6/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 10/21/01