**Dear County Recorder (Sussex Orn Soc),  
I have just entered my sighting of 'Crane', recorded at Weir Wood Reservoir (TQ3834) on 04/05/2015, into BirdTrack and have completed a Local Rarity Description Form.  
  
If you have any further questions regarding the information I have provided (copy below) please do not hesitate to contact me through my e-mail address initially (xxxx)  
Kind regards,  
Williams  
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Species:  Crane   
Number of birds:  1   
Sex:  U   
Age:  Adult   
Time of observation:  13:30   
Approximate duration:  5 minutes   
Earlier/Later dates if known:  n/a   
Other observers with you:  N/A - non-birding wife and kids   
Who found the bird(s):  Stuart Williams   
Who first identified it/them:  Stuart Williams   
Optics used:  Leica 8 x 20 trinovids   
Distance from bird:  400m   
Was the bird photographed (Y/N):  N   
Weather/viewing conditions:  Broken cloud, sunshine, light Southerly   
Previous experience of Crane:  Yes - 3 UK sightings    
Previous experience of similar species:  Yes - Demoiselle and storks / herons   
Description of species:  Viewed from Standen House National Trust overlooking Weir Wood Reservoir (during morris dancing display - not an aficionado - day out with kids!).    
  
Very large circling bird with outstretched neck and trailing legs and long, broad, well fingered wings.  Viewed against broken cloud and in bright sunlight c 400m away and 100 m above ground.  Fairly uniform grey underwing (except darker primaries and secondaries), underparts and neck ruled out White Stork (my initial suspect until I dug my bins out).  Continuously outstretched / unkinked neck, flatter less bowed winds and more distinct primary fingers ruled out smaller Grey Herons - one of which was seen thermalling shortly afterwards.  On side view, white blaze from behind eye down mid neck just visible against blackish hood.  Bill mid length (shorter than stork or heron).  Fairly slow, deep wingbeats interspersed with gliding and soaring - legs occasionally dangling down at angle.    Bird was alone and did not call.  Probably migrating but appeared to be searching area in long, sweeping circles.  Suspect attracted by reservoir.  Headed East.  
  
Familiar with species from 3 previous UK sightings.  (Gibraltar Point, Sept 94 and Harty Ferry Kent April 96 and January 2013)and also with Demoiselle Crane at Spurn, Sept 93.  (escaped Demoiselle ruled out on larger size and more extensive white on head of this bird). Also familiar with Blue, Crowned and Sarus Cranes and White and Black Stork from overseas trips.   
Finally, is this record 100% certain, or any observers disagree?:  100% certain   
(BTO Observation ID:  OBS212676909)   
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**ADVICE IF YOU ARE SUBMITTING A DESCRIPTION OF AN UNUSUAL BIRD (INCLUDING VIA BIRDTRACK)**

Note that the observer describes the shape of the bird very clearly and, most importantly, tells us its *relative size* – larger than a Grey Heron. The structure of a soaring Crane comes across well including the outstretched neck, trailing legs and the angle of the wings. The colouration is described adequately, including the head pattern, bearing in mind the upperparts would have been hard to see well. The observer is alert to the need to describe any call, although this bird did not call.