

**Indiana Audubon Society  
Rare Bird Species Documentation Form**

Species: Fish Crow \_\_\_\_\_ Number: 2 Age/sex:

Location: \_ Nurrenburn Road, south of Broadway, west of Burdette Park

Date: \_May 9 Time: about 11:00 AM. Temp: about 70 degrees

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Description of bird(s):

Body (size, shape, coloration, upperparts, underparts, wings, tail):

All-black, appeared slightly smaller than American Crow although without side-by-side comparisons, we couldn't be sure of size.

Head and bill (size, shape coloration, eye ring, eye stripe, color of lores):

We could not distinguish any differences in the head and bill from those of American Crows

In flight (profile, color patterns, wing and tail length, wingbeats):

Flight seemed less fluid than that of American Crows but again, without side-by-side comparisons, we could be sure.

Voice: The bird's call separated it from American Crow. We distinctly heard a two-syllable call perhaps described as "uh-uhh" with the second syllable slightly longer and definitely lower pitched than the first. Although there were five birds, only two were calling, both calling the two-syllable call.

Behavior: in flight

Description of habitat: open agricultural fields (some in flood) with surrounding heavy forest

Explain why the above descriptions are not that of other, similar-appearing species, and why similar species were eliminated from consideration:

We eliminated the American Crow strictly on the basis of call.

Previous experience with this species and similar-appearing species:

We have seen and heard Fish Crows in southwestern Posey County on numerous occasions. This site in Vanderburgh County is "as the crow flies" (sorry about the pun) about 10 miles from the Posey County area where Fish Crows have been previously documented.

Distance to bird: 100 yds. Optical equipment used: 8 and 10 power binocs

Viewing conditions (weather, sky/light conditions, position of sun relative to bird and observer): Excellent clear weather, bright sun, sun to left of crows and observers

Were photos or videos taken? no

Names of others observing bird: Vivian Ruff, Sue Hirschman

Did others agree with your identification? Yes

List books, illustrations, recordings consulted. Sibley, Nat Geo, bird call CDs transferred to iPod

How long after seeing this bird did you first write this description? One week

Observer's name: Sharon Sorenson