

Anhinga

5 Apr 1967

Union Grove Lake, Tama Co., IA

Mrs. John Ehlers

Ehlers 1967

Record Number: 81-AF

Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Ehlers, Mrs. J. 1967. Anhinga, third record for Iowa. IBL 37:53.

VOTE (1981) 4-III, 2-IV, 1-V

III, Behavior patterns right.

III, Acceptable description.

IV, Details provided do not completely eliminate cormorant.

III, good description, albeit minimal; no confirmation.

IV, Description not as good as 2. Always in flight making ID a bit more difficult.

V, Single observer record, no tangible evidence. Descript. seems incomplete. No coloration is mentioned. From the remark that 'silvery patches on fore part of wing' it appears the observer is thinking of a male, but the white feathers on a male Anhinga occur considerably further caudally from the 'fore part of the wing' to involve secondaries and tertials.

III, Fan-shaped tail & soaring behavior would seem to eliminate cormorant. Possibly should be IV.

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Ehlers, Mrs. J. 1967. Anhinga, third record for Iowa. IBL 37:53.

ANHINGA, THIRD RECORD FOR IOWA--On April 5th, 1967, I was at Union Grove Lake near Gladbrook, Iowa, and saw an Anhinga, or Water Turkey as it is sometimes called. It was the middle of the afternoon, on a cloudy day, that this huge black bird flew to the lake from the South. It flew directly in front of me, skimming over the treetops. Its neck was long and snake-like; the tail was very long, and fan-shaped. It flapped its wings then soared, and repeated this procedure during the five to eight minutes it remained at the lake. As it was almost overhead, I was unable to see the silvery patches on the fore part of the wings, but the light area of the lower bill was clearly seen. Anhingas are found in cypress swamps and rice fields in the South, and according to Roger Tory Peterson, are found as far north as Arkansas, Tennessee and southern Illinois. As Iowa is out of its territory, I checked with the 1963 IOWA BIRD LIFE "Check List of Iowa Birds" compiled by Dr. Martin Grant, and found that Anhingas are listed as being in Iowa two times, in 1904 and 1953. The severe storms we have had this spring might explain it being found out of its usual territory. -- MRS. JOHN EHLERS, 305 Chestnut St., Reinbeck.