

Ibis species
2 Sep 1981
Eldridge, Scott Co., IA
*Lewis Blevins
IBL 51:115, 52:42

Record Number: 81-10
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Lewis D. Blevins

REFERENCES

Field ReportsL 51:115
Records Committee: 52:42

VOTE: Plegadis sp 7 III, Glossy Ibis: 2 III, 2 IV, 1 V, 2 ?

IV, I'm not convinced, esp with Sep bird.

V, Blue skin must have a light edge to be convincing. Eye color not mentioned. Although said to be an adult, no evidence for this is presented in the description. He may have talked to Petersen before writing the description.

IV, Description sparce and undetailed; long range; how good were optics?

III, Finally a good obs. of a Glossy Ibis for Iowa. n. a. - blue on face seen.

III, [arrow points to Plegadis sp, no vote on Glossy/thk] more specifics of bill color, leg color and eye color needed for support of Glossy identification.

III, (II if one includes survey crew). Presence of blue skin is conclusive. However eye color was not noted. Note that in Illinois Bohlen considers Plegadis ibeses to be Glossy until proven otherwise!!

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

81-10

by the Records Committee

of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: Glossy Ibis

DATE SEEN: 2 Sep 1981

SITE OF OBSERVATION: n. of Eldridge, Scott Co

OBSERVERS: Lewis Blevins

numbered

5/21/82

DATE OF REVIEW: 1982

METHOD OF REVIEW: mail

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD:

COMMENTS: III for Ibis species

IV for Glossy Ibis.

Since this would be a first record of Glossy Ibis for Iowa and because of the difficulty in identification, especially in fall, the Committee was conservative in evaluating this record. It may take a photograph or specimen to be convincing.

The blue facial skin should have a lighter edge. Eye color - is important - red is diagnostic of white-faced, brown suggests Glossy but could be a faded white-faced or bad lighting angle.

Field notes taken immediately are more convincing.

We hope you have a chance to see another one of these birds soon.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Glossy IBIS 2. Number: 1
3. Location 1/2 mile North Eldridge, Scott County Iowa
4. Date: September 2, 1981 5. Time Bird seen: 1:00 AM to 1:10 AM
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
Bird was immediately recognized as an IBIS by the dark coloration and shape. A look with the scope dictated it as an adult. We were close enough to see the iridescent plumage. We were able to see the blue coloration at the base of the bill. This being the difference between the Glossy and the white faced Glossy. Fortunately the bird had retained its breeding plumage making identification much easier.
7. Description of voice, if heard: None heard
8. Description of behavior: Bird was feeding in flooded field
9. Habitat - general: wading bird area.
specific: _____
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
The only other species offering same characteristics would be the white faced Glossy IBIS. This was eliminated by answer question 6.
11. Distance (how measured)? 250 feet (estimated) 12. Optical equipment: 32 Power (Surveyors instrument)
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Bright sunny day with the sun directly overhead.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Have observed the white faced Glossy Ibis at Great Bend KANSAS
15. Other observers:
MEMBERS OF SURVEY CREW.
16. Did the others agree with your identification?
They are UNTRAINED IN BIRD IDENTIFICATION.
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Checked Petersens Field Guide when I arrived home.
Also checked an article in Birding Volume 8 Number I, January February 1976 page 1-5 (Field Identification of IBIS)
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 6 hrs
- Lewis D Blevins Address: 2003 East 12th
Signature
- Date: September 2, 1981 City, State: Davenport, Iowa 52803