

Ibis species

1 May 1981

Otter Creek Marsh, Tama Co., IA

\*Beth Proescholdt

IBL 51:64, 52:42

Record Number: 81-03  
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Beth Proescholdt

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 51:64

Records Committee: IBL 52:42

VOTE: 7-III for sp.

III, good details, but record should remain Plegadis sp.

III, OK as Plegadis sp.

III, Satisfactorily identified as to genus (eliminates White Ibis).

1. Species Ibis sp. (White-faced or Glossy) 2. Number 1  
3. Location Otter Creek Marsh - south central Tama County  
4. Date: May 1, 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 6:00 PM to 6:15-PM

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):

A 20" bird, ibis-shaped, appearing black in silhouette, except when it turned to show a glossy bronze side - long, decurved bill which at first glance reminded us of a curlew, except the shape & posture was that of an ibis - the bill curving into head & down long neck - long ibis legs. We approached along dike cautiously hoping to see whether it was white-faced or glossy, but the bird flushed & flew with a "squawk", with outstretched neck & very noticeable decurved bill, & extended legs.

7. Description of voice, if heard: a guttural "quonk" as it flew

8. Description of behavior: it was feeding on mud flats, until it flew as we approached

9. Habitat - general: Otter Creek Marsh

specific: in the area where water had apparently been let out to form mud flats, interspersed with very shallow water

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
Curlew - but not correct shape for a curlew  
white ibis - wrong color

11. Distance (how measured)? estimated 200' 12. Optical equipment: Binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

full sun on bird, with sun just a few degrees left of our looking into sun - so the bird appeared in silhouette

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: none with this species, but white ibis observed in Florida

15. Other observers: Phyllis Harris, Garnita Seward, Ramona Sommerlot

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none, to our knowledge

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

2 Peterson guides - Field Guide to the Birds, 2<sup>nd</sup> Revised and his new guide - and Robbins (etal) Birds of North America

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? immediately in my notes

Signature: Beth Proescholdt Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: May 24, 1981 City, State: Liscomb, Iowa, 50148