

White-faced Ibis

1 May 1984

North Twin Lake, Calhoun Co., IA

*Lannie Miller

IBL 54:42; 55:56

Record Number: 84-05
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Lannie R. Miller

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 54:42

Records Committee: 55:56

VOTE: 5-III, 1-IV, 1-V

III, Face enough, but should have mentioned eye and leg color.

V, would be III for Ibis sp.

III, A little sketchy but key features seen.

IV, More detail would be better--color of bill, legs, bare skin of face. I don't really doubt the identification, but 10 days is a long time for the wide band on the face to grow. It all comes down to 'How wide is wide?' and I guess I believe it more because I expect a White-faced Ibis than because of the description.

REVOTE (at meeting, 8 Sep 1984): 7-III

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

by the Records Committee

of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: WHITE-FACED IBIS

DATE SEEN: May 1, 1984

SITE OF OBSERVATION: North Twin Lake, Calhoun County

OBSERVERS: Lannie Miller

DATE OF REVIEW: 1984

METHOD OF REVIEW: Circulation by mail to Records Committee

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: III

COMMENTS:

This rather sketchy description was accepted after some discussion by the Records Committee. The only real objections were the subjective description of the white band around the facial skin as "too much white around eye and under chin" to be a Glossy Ibis. Location of the sighting was a strong factor in acceptance of the record.

The mention that the white band went "under the chin" is actually diagnostic in itself of a White-faced Ibis, as the white edging to the gray or blue facial skin (in spring) of Glossy Ibis is not continuous under the base of the bill.

The Records Committee is very appreciative of your sending this sighting in, as persons such as yourself, who are often in the field, have many opportunities to see unusual birds in Iowa.

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

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.

84-5

DOCUMENTATION FORM
Extraordinary Bird Sightings
In Iowa

Species? White Faced Ibis No. _____

Location South across road from S. Boat ramp on North Twin Lake, Calhoun Co. Iowa

Habitat Sheetwater pond in pasture

Date(s) MAY 1, 1984 Time: 9:15 AM to 9:30 AM

Name and Address: LANNIE R. MILLER Fisheries Bldg. LAKE VIEW IA 51450 Box 775

Other Observers: Jim Judas - Cons. Officer, Don Herrig - Fisheries Tech.
* DAN MARK - summer aide

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail; throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention behavior and voice.

Dark brown bird. Large downward curving bill. size - a little larger than a coot. HAD lots of iridescence wide white line around eye & chin. WAS feeding by probing in the sheetwater pond

Similar species and how eliminated: Glossy Ibis - Too much white around eye & under chin

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Sunny day - distance 50-100 yds (estimate)
Bausch & Lomb spotting scope & binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: None

References and persons consulted before writing description: DAVE NEWHOUSE
On site we used - Golden Guide to Field Identification of Birds of North America.

How long before field notes made? 10 days this form completed?