

Ibis species  
29 Apr 1978  
Churdan, Greene Co., IA  
\*Dan Towan  
IBL 48:71

Record Number: 81-JL  
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Dan Towan

REFERENCE

Field Reports: IBL 48:71

VOTE (1981): for sp. 6-III, for White-faced 2-IV, 2-V, 1-VI; for  
Glossy 1-IV, 3-V, 1-VI

few details.

documentaion not definitive.

no details; enough information to suggest Plegadis sp.

Halmi, N. S., 1978, Field reports. Iowa Bird Life 48:69-77. p 71

"Even Plegadis Ibises were reported. No attempt was made to identify the species for that seen on April 18 s. of Russell, s. central Iowa (CS). Those who saw 6 dark Ibises at Sweet M. on April 26-29 (Larry Farmer, JSc) leaned toward Glossy; 4 birds seen near Churdan, Greene Co. (April 21, DT) were believed to be White-faced, but the description did not include diagnostic field marks. Plegadis ibises observed in spring under favorable viewing conditions should be recognizable as to species (see H. Poughs Prett, Birding, 1976)."

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Middlewestern Prairie Region  
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

19  
81-JL

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

SP. (NSH)

1. Species Plegadis chibi (White-faced Ibis) 2. Number: Four (4)

3. Location 1 mile North, 2 1/4 miles East of Churdan, Iowa.

4. Date: April 21, 1978 5. Time Bird seen: 10:30 AM to 11 A.M.

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):

- Bill straight, slightly upturned, approximately 3/4 in. tall.
- Head mostly black, with a white patch (possibly a forehead)
- Generally solid color, including basically tanish color until correct angle of sunlight showed purplish tint.
- Rapid wingbeat with some gliding

Distinction from *P. falcinellus*?  
NSH

7. Description of voice, if heard: none heard

8. Description of behavior: - feeding in one foot of water, generally kept moving, water, with bill quite often in water; occasionally left water and were more stationary when on dry land

9. Habitat - general: creek pasture, non-forested, no trees for 1/4 mile  
specific: creek bayou (old bed); some vegetation along creek

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:

Count like Heron; Great Blue Heron is the only other species that I could think of that would have been close to the water. It's not even close.

11. Distance (how measured)? 45-50 steps - stepped off with  
- crawled to edge of water to watch them

12. Optical equipment: 7x35

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
partly cloudy sky, sun out at 11 A.M. position and birds were pretty much west

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: at work

15. Other observers: Lab specimens of glossy ibis studied  
Iowa State University

16. Did the others agree with your identification?  
To young I don't know.

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

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

At the time, I was working on a field project for Animal Biology 390, so happened to have: Robbins' Birds of North America, with me at the time of sighting

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Four Days Address: N.R. 1

20. Date: April 24, 1978 City, State: Churoam, Iowa 50050

1. Seen by Dan Tower, an ornithology student who I queried closely about the bird (over) with 3 days. (N.N.)