

Ibis species
11 Jun 1984
Louisa NWR, Louisa Co., IA
*fide P. Petersen
IBL 54:80-81; 55:58

Record Number: 84-17
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATIONS

Leroy E. Hovell
unsigned note

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 54:80-81
Records Committee: IBL 55:58

VOTE (for Glossy Ibis): 4-III, 2-IV, 1-V

V, Not clear who documentor was. Essentially no description except for mention of diagnostic field mark--suggesting that documentor was clued to mention this.

III, I had the advantage of hearing more details on the phone from Leroy. I wrote both men and requested more specific account of field marks seen. Would have called it IV from written comments alone.

IV (for Ibis species), Teasingly simplistic written description that supports not even an ibis species rating.

IV, Sketchy description, although blue skin seen. Date raises possibility of prebreeding White-faced Ibis (ie 1 year old birds) which may lack white edging around face patch. Distance of observation raises doubts as to how well birds were seen. I believe we need a better description for state record. Location seems right, however.

III, If this weren't what may become the first accepted state record, I'd be a lot happier. The blue facial skin seems so distinctive I'm giving it a 3. Also, the write-up is terrible, but presumably the observers don't know better. Who wrote this? Based on what? Hearsay? Notes? Memory? I am glad the writer 'set the stage' so to speak, but there is 1/2 sentence description in 5 paragraphs. (I'm not counting 'All characteristics matched Glossy Ibis'. That invites the question 'What characteristics?'). If I don't mail this promptly it may become a 4.

REVIEW: at meeting, 8 Sep 1984, new documentation received from Hovell.

REVOTE (for Glossy Ibis): by mail, 4-III, 3-IV

SUPPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES AND/OR SPECIES IN HIGH NUMBERS

84-17

~~GSC name~~ _____ ~~GSC date~~ _____ Compiler _____

Observer writing this account and date Leroy E. Havell

SPECIES Glossy Ibis NUMBER, AGE, SEX Two - unknown age & sex

Distance from bird(s) 1000ft Relative size of bird approx. the size of night heron

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line, etc.)
Area immediately above bill and along base covered with bluish skin. This extended around eye.

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color, etc.) Eye dark in color
Bluish skin from base of bill extending to the eye.

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES Recurved, 2 X Length of head

LEGS & FEET Legs relatively long, legs & feet dark in color

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts, etc.)
All upper parts a relatively uniform dark color.

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum, etc.)
dark throughout, about same color as back

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers, color pattern, shape, etc.)
Tail short & dark in color

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading and trailing edges, etc.)
Wing generally about same color as body & tail except for slightly different shading of primaries

VOCALIZATION None

BEHAVIOR Birds appeared nervous, moving frequently for short distances as if testing different areas for food, areas tested were along water edge in shallow water

Date of observation _____ Time _____ Weather _____ Sky cover _____

Duration of observation _____ Bird - Sun orientation _____

Exact location _____

Habitat _____ Other observers _____

optical equipment _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS _____

already submitted, no need to duplicate

Glossy Ibis Sighting

On June 11, Mr. Wayne Stanley, Leroy Hovell, Chuck H. Bartenhagen, Philip R. Earnest, Sarah M. Cross, Ramona R. Haight, Ginger A. Malcom, Chris Weyrick, and Bill Knapp were starting a ground search for nests about 9 a.m. The starting point was on the northeast corner of Moist Soil Unit number one, Louisa National Wildlife Refuge, Louisa County, Iowa.

The temperature was in the 80's. The day was clear and the light was good. The sun was at our backs.

When we got out of the vehicles two birds were in the road about 1000 feet from the vehicle.

Mr. Stanley and Mr. Hovell had 7 x 50 binoculars (Bushnell and Bausch and Lomb). The birds were tentatively identified with these instruments. We then checked them out with 20 x and 40 x scopes. All characteristics matched Glossy Ibis including the blue skin at the base of the curved bill.

The two birds appeared nervous. They moved northward along the edge of the water north of the road. We observed the birds for approximately 15 minutes. This gave us time to check Peterson's field guide and recheck the birds. They were in the area until we started the actual nest search.

recd 7/31/84 From Refuge Office -

Wayne Stanley

&

Leroy Hovell. PCP.