

Glossy Ibis  
26 May 1998  
Thorpe Park, Winnebago Co., IA  
\*Gian Dodici  
P-0599, IBL 68:90

Record Number: 98-12  
Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATION

Gian Dodici, Dept. of Animal Ecology, Ames 50011 [2/28/99]

PHOTOGRAPHS

Gian Dodici, 26 May 1998 P-0599

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 68:90

Records Committee: IBL 69:89

Dodici, G. 1999. Glossy Ibis at Thorpe Park, Winnebago County.  
Iowa Bird Life 69:79.

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Hope we will see photos.

A-D, Excellent description of salient identification features, although general size & shape & coloration are not mentioned.

A-D, Sketchy description but the important details are here.  
Are there photos?

A-D, The facial description fits alternate plumaged Glossy Ibis, and the bill and leg color are consistent with this species. Eye color is not mentioned. It would be nice to see the photos. As we get more and more information transmitted through the internet, it will be more and more important to have reporters give their full name and address within the transmission.

A-D, The description of facial skin describes Glossy and eliminates White-faced. Hopefully photos will be OK.

RE-VOTE (by mail with photos): 6 A-P, 1 A-D

A-D, I can't eliminate White-faced Ibis from the photograph.

A-P, Blue facial skin shows on magnifier. It does seem too prominent, however.

A-P, The bare skin at the base of the bill has a definite blue cast, not the bright white feathering of the White-faced Ibis. An eyeball surrounded by this pale area (as in white-faced) would be structurally incorrect. Photos very similar to those from May 4 & 5, 1992 (92-29).

A-P, Blue facial skin seen with magnifier.



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g white sides to the tail and plain buffy tan from throat to undertail without  
ched streaking seen on the upper chest of the pipits. It didn't have the whitish  
r chestnut on the upperwing that Lapland Longspurs show' or give the "tew"  
hat are usually interspersed with the "tics" of Lapland Longspurs. It was joined  
cond Smith's Longspur when flushed again, both birds giving me excellent  
but they flew away when flushed a third time. When I passed through this part  
nard Reece an hour later, a Smith's Longspur jumped up only 50 yards from  
t of my earlier contact.

requent visits on 11, 15, and 18 October yielded more Savannah Sparrows,  
merican Pipits, and 60 Lapland Longspurs, but no Smith's Longspurs.

n I arrived at Maynard Reece at 7:45 a.m. on 25 October, I immediately saw  
ups of duck hunters on the north and south sides of the largest water area. As  
ered my options, a large flock of longspurs passed beside me into a light  
ind, flying low. They skirted the east edge of the water area, flew over a  
ll, and continued southeast. More birds closely followed, and I saw many  
g for a sip of water. A looping route away from the hunters finally brought  
e hill in the flight path of the streaming longspurs. This was the same spot  
ich I'd watched the longspurs back in April! By the time the flight slowed  
at 9:15, an (under) estimated 1,000-2,000 longspurs passed over this hill,  
g close to (but probably more than) 100 Smith's.

Smith's Longspurs were picked out as small groups (1-10) doubled back  
r across the grain of the main flight. Examination of these groups usually  
he plain buffy undersides and white shoulder patches of Smith's Longspurs.  
e wing coverts were particularly striking in the morning sun, especially as  
not been evident to me under cloudy conditions on 7 October. Another  
noted this time was how strongly the dark malar stripe of the Lapland  
s showed on passing birds as compared to Smith's Longspur. The difference  
ould also be appreciated as the rest of the longspurs continued flying away.  
h's "tic-tic-tic" calls were slower, and deeper or lower in pitch, and again I  
e lack of "tew" notes given when compared to the Lapland Longspurs.

s Longspurs often landed on the ground singly or in small groups, while  
nd Longspurs seemed intent on covering distance. I walked around the area,  
ee Smith's on the ground, but they proved to be frustratingly difficult to  
e they took flight 10-30 feet ahead of me. The Smith's Longspur I was best  
dy was a first-winter bird with extensive but muted streaking covering the  
st. I only flushed two groups of 20 or so Laplands all morning as the two  
dn't seem to mix much in the air or on the ground. I spent 20 minutes  
t the edge of the water area scanning flocks of Lapland Longspurs as they  
wn to land and take a quick sip of water before continuing on, but not a  
th's Longspur was seen to stop for a drink. Even though return trips to  
ound only 2 American Pipits on October 28, 2 Savannah Sparrows on  
4, and no longspurs, I'll be back. The key to finding Smith's Longspurs  
ems to be repeated coverage of good habitat. Walk a likely area, and then  
ther day. Then go back and walk it still another day. Cross your fingers  
he exercise, you may even find diamonds!

llips, Algona, Iowa 50511

## GLOSSY IBIS AT THORPE PARK, WINNEBAGO COUNTY 98-12

GIAN DODICI

On 26 May 1998 I was driving through Thorpe Park when I noticed an unusual-shaped bird feeding near three Canada Geese. As I stopped my vehicle, I quickly realized, because of the bird's general shape and distinctly decurved bill, that the bird was an ibis. As soon as I viewed the bird through my binoculars I suspected that it might be a Glossy Ibis rather than the more common, in Iowa, White-faced Ibis. The ibis was in alternate plumage, and the glossy purplish color was stunning in the bright sunlight. The long bill was a dirty white color and lacked any of the red coloration evident in White-faced Ibis. The legs were also a dirty white color with slightly darker joints. The bird's face had a bluish-white border above and below the eyes to the bill, white extended up and over the top of the base of the bill, but did not extend behind the eye nor did it extend under the chin. I observed the bird for about 15 minutes at less than 50 yards with a 20-50 power scope and binoculars before going to the naturalist's office. Lisa Ralls, the Thorpe Park naturalist, and I returned to the area where I had seen the ibis, and we both watched the bird for 15 minutes as it fed and preened in a small area. I returned to the area 30 minutes later with a 500 mm camera lens and managed to take about 12 pictures before I ran out of film! In all, I observed the Glossy Ibis for about 40 minutes in bright sunlight in the middle of the day. I returned to the area later that evening, with Lisa Hemesath and Andy Clement, and again the next day with Andy Clement but we were unable to relocate the bird. Bruce Davis told me later that he had seen an ibis at Myre Slough some time in May, so it is possible that the bird was in the area for some time. Glossy Ibis are rare in Iowa; this is the third record, all in May. The first record is from Kossuth County in May 1992 (Kenne, *Iowa Bird Life* 64:83-84) and the second is from Fremont County in May 1995 (Kent, Fuller, and Tetrault), *Iowa Bird Life* (65:87-88).



Department of Animal Ecology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I wanted to share with the readers of *Iowa Bird Life* a technique I use to locate Winter Wrens. Long ago, I learned I could get resident Carolina Wrens to respond to a tape of their song. I did this along the bluffs near the Mississippi River north of Clinton, taking care to do this only in winter so I didn't disturb spring territories.

Several years ago, I became enchanted with the Winter Wren that inhabits these bluffs in the winter months. I tried playing recordings of its song and had success. As late as November, the Winter Wren would burst into song when a tape of its song was played. In the cold months of December and January, they will not sing but might come around scolding with a variety of call notes. In early spring, the male wrens are singing on their own.

Paul Van Nieuwenhuyse, 1355 Harrison Drive, Clinton, IA 52732-6161

98-12

Received: from mailhub.iastate.edu (mailhub.iastate.edu [129.186.1.102])  
 by pop-1.iastate.edu (8.8.5/8.8.5) with ESMTTP id GAA09818  
 for <oldcoot@pop-1.iastate.edu>; Wed, 27 May 1998 06:20:00 -0500 (CDT)  
 Received: from quercus (desm-01-58.dialup.netins.net [167.142.10.123])  
 by mailhub.iastate.edu (8.8.5/8.8.5) with SMTP id GAA04877  
 for <oldcoot@iastate.edu>; Wed, 27 May 1998 06:19:58 -0500 (CDT)  
 Message-Id: <3.0.3.32.19980527061939.007c7180@pop-2.iastate.edu>  
 X-Sender: dodici@pop-2.iastate.edu (Unverified)  
 X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Pro Version 3.0.3 (32)  
 Date: Wed, 27 May 1998 06:19:39 -0500  
 To: oldcoot@iastate.edu  
 From: Gian Dodici <dodici@iastate.edu>  
 Subject: Glossy Ibis?  
 Mime-Version: 1.0  
 Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"  
 X-UIDL: a805ec8bec9dd742b40861ec73a4cc07  
 Status: U

*Ames*

Hello,

Yesterday at Thorpe park I observed what I believe to be a Glossy Ibis. At 11:00 I observed the bird for about forty minutes at less then 50 yds with a 20-50x Scope. The weather was clear and the bird was well lit. It was preening and feeding within a small area for the entire time.

bill - long, decurved dark bone (dirty white) color --ther was NO pink/red color  
 legs - similar color to bill with somewhat darker joints.  
 face - bluish white border above and below the eyes to the bill, white extended up and over top of the base of the bill, but did NOT extend behind the eye nor did it extend under the chin.

I took about twelve photographs with a 500mm lens (until I ran out of film) so hopefully one or two will turn out.

Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions/comments --515 565-3572

Gian