

Ibis species  
24 Sep 1978  
Colo, Story Co., IA  
\*Hank Zalatel  
to 1 Oct; IBL 48:137

Record Number: 81-JN  
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Hank Zaletel

REFERENCES

Petersen, M. L. 1978. IOU 1978 fall meeting. IBL 48:129-131.  
[This bird was on list for Ames meeting, but was the Colo  
bird./thk]

Field Reports: IBL 48:137

VOTE (1981): for sp. 2-II, 4-III; for White-faced 1-IV, 2-V,  
2-VI; for Glossy 3-V, 2-VI

lack of crucial details.

documentation not definitive.

Fall sighting-no identifying characters. Apparent *Plegadis* sp.

NOTE from Mike Newlon 1981:

The more I research the less I can find about specific  
distinctions between immature ibeses, as most of the specimens  
seem to be. Cramp et al. (Handbook of the Birds of the W.  
Palearctic, v. 1) state that imm. *P. chihi* is paler on upper  
parts than *P. falasillis*. Such plates/photos as I have tend to  
confirm this (cf. Palmer or new Peterson vs. Pough Waterbirds)  
but I don't believe that without a series of specimens it's safe  
to use this. On this basis the mounted specimen in McBride Hall  
might be a glossy. Does ISU have specimens.? There appears to be  
no good mensural characteristics (Coues 1872 Handbook of N. Am.  
Birds). Few of the documentations seem sufficiently good for  
specific identification (except for the record I-P). NB: *P. Chihi*  
has legs as well as facial skin pinkish-red when in high breeding  
condition, though few/none mention leg color. This is well shown  
in the photos of ibeses in the new Audubon Soc Fld Guides.

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Halmi, N. S., 1978, Field reports. Iowa Bird Life 48:136-141.

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"A Plegadis Ibis was seen by numerous people September 24-  
October 1 near Colo (Carl Kurtz, HZ, JD, WB)."

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

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81-JN

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species dark phase glossy ibis species 2. Number: 1
  3. Location 2½ miles east of Colo on old highway 30 in a flooded field
  4. Date: September 29, October 1 5. Time Bird seen: 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM  
1978 2:30 PM 3:15 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): September 29 - bird had been spooked with some Pintail ducks from the pond and was circling in the sky. Dark body  profile  
October 1 - plumage appeared to be black but when reflected in the sun a bronze sheen was apparent - it appeared to be about two feet in height - its beak was black and was bordered by the black-bronze color of feathers - its beak was about five inches in length and was curved down - its legs were black with three toes.
  7. Description of voice, if heard: none
  8. Description of behavior: the bird was feeding and constantly moving along the waterline probing the ground
  9. Habitat - general: flooded field  
specific: marsh grass and mud flat
  10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
  11. Distance (how measured)? 40-50 yards, walked off 12. Optical equipment: Bushnell Binoculars 8X40
  13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Sky clear, sunny with sun at my back looking at the bird
  14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: glossy ibis, Pt. Pelee Canada; white ibis, Everglades Florida; white-faced
  15. Other observers: glossy ibis, Bear River Refuge, Ogden, Utah  
Linda Zaletel on September 29
  16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
  17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Dr. Jim Dinsmore  
Woodward Brown
  18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
A Field Guide to the Birds - Peterson  
A Guide to Field Identification of Birds of North America - Robbins, Bruun, Zi  
Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds - Eastern
  19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? Two weeks
- Hank Zaletel Address: 667 Pammel Ct.  
Signature
- Date: October 24, 1978 City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010