

White-faced Ibis
15 Aug 1997
Harrier M., Boone Co., IA
*Ed Thelen
IBL 68:10, 85

Record Number: 97-37
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Ed Thelen, 15362 250th Ave., Spirit Lake 51360 [2/15/98]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 68:10

Records Committee: 68:85

Thelen, E. 1999. White-faced Ibis at Harrier Marsh in Boone County. Iowa Bird Life 69:103-104.

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Red eye seen should make this ibis a White-faced.

A-D, Red eye is conclusive.

A-D, The iridescence and the lack of white in face indicate an adult with at least partial molt to basic plumage. The red eye is diagnostic.

A-D, Red eye apparently diagnostic; also would be expected species in fall.

LITERATURE CITED

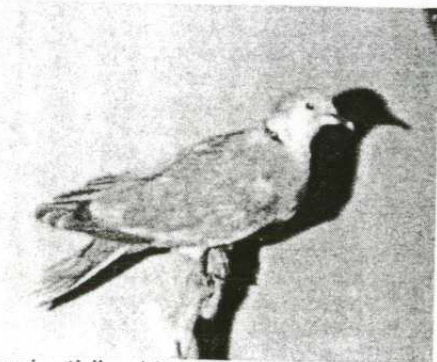
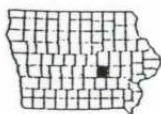
- Blackshaw, S. R. 1988. Identifying the Eurasian Collared-Dove. *Birding* 20:311-312.
 Padelford, L., and B. Padelford. 1999. Eurasian Collared-Dove in Osceola County. *Iowa Bird Life* 69:103.
 Proescholdt, M., and M. Stegmann. 1999. Eurasian Collared-Dove specimen for Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 68:102.
 Ramsey, S. 1988. Letter to the Editor: More on Eurasian Collared-Doves. *Birding* 20:343-344.
 White, T. 1986. Collared-Dove: The next North American species? *Birding* 18:150-152.

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EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE SPECIMEN FOR IOWA

MARK PROESCHOLDT AND MIKE STEGMANN

On 15 October 1997, the Central Iowa Ornithologists' of the Marshalltown region travelled to Grinnell on one of their regular field trips. There, they visited 16th Street in north Grinnell to see if the Eurasian Collared-Doves which had first appeared in August 1997 (see note by Fuller, this issue), were still present. Along the road they noticed a dead Eurasian Collared-Dove which was retrieved by Ed Savage and brought back to Marshalltown. There it was turned over to Mike Stegmann of the Marshall County Conservation Board. Mike prepared the bird as a display mount (see photo) which is now on display at the conservation board's headquarters in Marshalltown. The bird, a male with molt evident on the head and tail, seemed to be in good condition and clearly was killed in a collision with a car. There are several photographs of the birds at Grinnell and Osceola County, this is the first specimen of this species for Iowa.



Eurasian Collared-Dove specimen at Marshalltown
 Photo by Mark Proescholdt.

Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148 and 1929 Vine Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE IN OSCEOLA COUNTY

LOREN AND BABS PADELDFORD

We were on our way to do some birding in northwestern Iowa on 20 August 1998. It was near lunch time so we stopped in Willow Creek Park, on Highway 9 about six miles east of Highway 60, to have our lunch. When we got out of the car we heard a dove calling - a series of "hoos" - "hoo-hoo-hoo" without any of the bubbling notes associated with the call of the Ringed Turtle-Dove. As it continued to call we went to look for it. It flew to the top of a large dead tree where we studied it for several minutes through our binoculars at a distance of about 30 yards. It was a dove, larger than a Mourning Dove with a pale brown back and a light gray breast. It had a narrow black crescent on the nape of the neck. It had a Mourning Dove-like small head and small bill. In flight the tail appeared rather square at the tip. The tip of the tail was white. This combination of characteristics identified it as a Eurasian Collared-Dove, a species first reported in Iowa in 1997 (Fuller, *Iowa Bird Life* 69: , 1999).



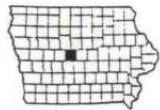
During the time we were in the park, from about 1130-1230 hours, we heard the bird call many times.

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✓ WHITE-FACED IBIS AT HARRIER MARSH IN BOONE COUNTY

ED THELEN

On 15 August 1997, while driving back to Spirit Lake from Des Moines, I decided to stop and check out Saylorville reservoir for some fall migrant shorebirds. While at Saylorville I met Eugene and Eloise Armstrong who were also out birding. After we introduced ourselves and checked out some nearby shorebirds, it was soon time for me to continue my drive home. Knowing that I was headed north, Eugene suggested I stop at Harrier Marsh, a wetland complex just south of Ogeden in Boone County. He said it had some good mudflats and should hold a few shorebirds. He also requested I call him if I happen to see an ibis this fall while birding the sloughs of northwestern Iowa. I told him I had never seen one before but nevertheless would call him if I happened to see one.



As I headed home I thought about what Eugene had said about Harrier Marsh and decided to check it out. Imagine my surprise when I saw an ibis less than 100 yards from the east-west gravel road adjacent to Harrier Marsh. Standing before me was a dark, long-legged bird with a thick, decurved, gray-colored bill that appeared as long as the bird's neck. It was feeding actively next to some Mallards which seemed a third the size of the ibis. The body, back, wings, and rump were mostly iridescent green-black with a tinge of purple sheen. Its neck, throat, nape, and forehead were brown with slight streaks of white. Its legs appeared dark with no hint of color. Its facial skin was dark with no white or light coloring. With a 30-power spotting scope, I could clearly see the red eyes of the ibis on several occasions. Because of the red eyes I identified this ibis as an adult White-faced Ibis in basic plumage. According to Kaufman (*Advanced Birding*, 1990) "If you can see the red eyes the bird is a White-faced Ibis".

✓ After identifying it positively as an ibis, I immediately tried calling the Armstrongs at their home with my cell phone, but received no answer. (They were still out birding.) I then called Jim Dinsmore who was home and was able to come out and observe the ibis. I then tried the Armstrongs again and this time they answered. When I told Eugene why I was calling he stated simply "We'll be there in 45 minutes." I then stayed with the ibis until the Armstrongs arrived, happy not only to share my find with fellow birders but grateful also for them telling me about Harrier Marsh. The ibis fed continuously during the hour and a half that I observed the bird. As far as I know, the ibis was not seen after this date.

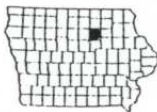
According to Kent and Dinsmore (Birds in Iowa, 1996), this is the second sighting of White-faced Ibis in Boone County. There are numerous records of ibis in Iowa in fall but because White-faced and Glossy ibis are virtually identical in basic plumage, most have been identified only as Ibis species. Because I was able to see the bird's red eyes, I was able to identify it as a White-faced Ibis.

15362 250th Avenue, Spirit Lake, IA 51360

WHOOPING CRANES IN BREMER COUNTY

DANA DINNES

On Veteran's Day, 11 November 1998, Larry Brown (an outdoor writer from rural Randall, Iowa) and I were pheasant hunting along a treeless creek line about three miles northeast of Plainfield in Bremer County. It was a crisp, clear morning with a slight breeze. This contrasted markedly from a bit earlier in the week when there were very strong winds--gusts up to 60 mph--from the northwest.



At about 9:00 a.m., while we were headed south along the creek, we heard a strange noise in the air behind us to the north. We turned to see a group of 7 or 8 large birds approaching us. Their call, as Larry described it, sounded like a rusty metal gate swinging in the wind. Since the group of birds were also following the creek line, they were only 40-50 feet directly above us a couple of minutes later. The entire group had similar physical characteristics (as seen from underneath the birds), which were as follows:

- Massive wingspan, a minimum of 6-7 feet
- Long thin necks (over 2 feet long) and long legs that were outstretched in flight
- Small heads
- Bright white plumage with jet black wing tips

We had plenty of time to note these characteristics because their flight was rather slow and labored. They continued to follow the creek, which angled to the south-southeast.

Being an avid outdoorsman and amateur nature photographer, I had a strong inclination that these birds were not common in Iowa. They certainly didn't have the characteristics of egrets, herons, pelicans, or Snow Geese. When I returned home that evening, I looked up the cranes in a bird reference book. The Whooping Crane description and photos were by far the best fit to what we witnessed. I then related this information to Jim Dinsmore at Iowa State University the next day.

It was an incredible experience seeing those magnificent birds fly over us. I just wish I had dismissed the "camera curse" that day. I occasionally bring a camera along on hunting and fishing outings since nearly all of the exciting natural events I've

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seen happen during those activities. However, when I take the camera along such events don't seem to happen and we usually don't get any shots at our quarry nor catch any fish. I would have gladly given up the daily limit of pheasants I bagged that day for one decent photo of that group of whoopers!

P.O. Box 187, Kelley, IA 50134

WHOOPING CRANE IN POLK COUNTY

JERRY KEYS

The fierce, easterly winds that swept across the Midwest on 10 November 1998 brought a multitude of waterfowl into Iowa. While scouting for geese on 11 November, my hunting partner, Chad Loreth of Polk City, located a few thousand Snow Geese feeding in a chisel-plowed corn field we had permission to hunt southwest of Jester Park in Polk County. We quickly made plans for the following morning and invited Randy Cook of Polk City, to join us.



Arriving before dawn, we set out numerous decoys and anxiously awaited the sun's arrival. Just as we had hoped, the Snow Geese left Saylorville Reservoir as the sun rose and headed to our field.

At 9:30 a.m., with Snow Geese circling overhead, Randy saw a bird to the east heading toward our decoy spread. The bird's long neck and long trailing legs led us to assume it was a Sandhill Crane (many had been seen in the area the previous day). As the bird approached, it began to circle and appeared as if it wanted to land. Chad started to imitate a Sandhill Crane, but when we heard the bird calling, it "purred" and "yelped," which did not sound like a Sandhill. When the bird got within 70 yards, we noticed its body and wings were white except for the ends of the primaries which were black. Also, it was bigger than a Sandhill Crane. The bird eventually flew over us at about 15 yards and briefly landed in our decoys. We were then able to positively identify it as a Whooping Crane. The Whooping Crane lifted off and relanded 300 yards away in the chisel-plowed corn field and fed for about 15 minutes. It was very easy to see the white crane against the plowed field. The crane finally took flight again and headed west.

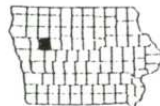
Unfortunately, we did not have a camera with us to take pictures of the Whooping Crane. We did manage to slightly reduce the Snow Goose population, enjoy the great outdoors, and create a once-in-a-lifetime memory.

1106 Westside, Polk City, IA 50226

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK AT TOMAHAWK MARSH

RUSSELL REISZ

At approximately 8 p.m. on 10 April 1998 I was parked on the country road that bisects Tomahawk Marsh in Sac County. While scanning the eastern portion of the marsh I noticed a large duck flying west, low over the water. I put my binoculars on it and was puzzled by the large white flashes I



What species? White-faced Ibis How many? 1Location? Harrier Marsh - Boone CountyType of habitat? Marsh, wetland complex with good mud flatWhen? date(s): 8-15-97 time: 12:00 pm to 1:30 pmWho? your name and address: Ed Thelen 15362 250th AVE SPIRIT LAKE IOWAothers with you: NOothers before or after you: James V. Dinsmore, Eugene and Elaine Armstrong

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 voice and behavior.

On 15 August, 1997 I observed an ibis at Harrier Marsh. It was a large dark long-legged bird with a thick decurved gray-colored bill which appeared as long as the birds neck. It was feeding actively adjacent to some nearby mallards which seemed 3 times smaller than the ibis. The body-back, wings and tail were mostly iridescent green-black with some purple sheen. Its neck, throat, nape and forehead was brown with slight streaks of white. Its legs appeared dark with no hint of color. Its facial skin was dark with no hint of white or light coloring. It also had a red eye which was observed on several occasions during the 1 1/2 hours I observed the bird. Because of the red eye I believe

Similar species and how eliminated:

This was a white-faced ibis. According to Kautman "Advanced Birding" pp 40-41 if you can see the red eyes the bird is a white-faced ibis.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? yes

If yes, explain:

With ibis in the fall period all identification should be done with some reservations.

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

Most observations were around 100 yds (est.) although my initial observations were around 50 yds (est.) Lighting was excellent with the sun at my back

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

NONE

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Kautman, Advanced Birding, Stokes Field Guide to Birds Peterson Bird Guide

How long before field notes made? while observing this form completed? 2 days laterMAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240Audubon
Master File