Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 09/01/93

Record Number: 83-28

Classification: A-D

Ibis species 27 Sep 1983 Otter Creek Marsh, Tama Co., IA *F. Moore, *R. Myers IBL 53:98; 54:38

DOCUMENTATIONS Francis L. Moore Myers REFERENCES Field Reports: IBL 53:98 Records Committee: IBL 54:38 VOTE: 7-III

III for sp., Nearly impossible to identify Glossy in fall. III, Plegadis sp. as suggested by observers. But see Bohlen (Birds Illinois)--Illinois birds assumed to be Glossy until proved otherwise (reverse of Iowa situation). Thus E. Iowa birds bear extremely close study.

III for Plegadis sp.--species can't be told. At least one is adult. If eye really is brown in the adult, this is a Glossy, but that is hard to be sure of. Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

by the Records Committee

of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: IBIS SP.

DATE SEEN: Sept 27, 1983

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Tama County, Iowa

OBSERVERS: F. Moore, Kranz R. Myers

DATE OF REVIEW: January 1984

METHOD OF REVIEW: Mailed to Records Committee

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: III

COMMENTS:

NTS: The Committee felt that identification to species could not be made, although at least one of the birds may have been an adult. It was noted that Bohlen (<u>Birds of Illinois</u>) considers Illinois ibises to be Glossies, while at least in western Iowa White-faced are expected. The situation in eastern Iowa is equivocal, and needs some spring sightings, in order to provide evidence for occurrence of either species.

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge

VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

83-28

Type of habitat? <u>Marshy</u> , <u>low water amoung cattails between two Northern dikes</u> . When? date(s): <u>September 27, 1983</u> time: <u>12:15</u> to <u>1:00</u> Who?your name and address: <u>Francis L. Moore</u> , <u>336 Fairfield St.</u> , <u>Waterloo</u> , <u>1A 50703</u> others with you: <u>Bob Myers</u> , <u>Ed Weiner</u> others before or after you: <u>Not Known</u> 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. No voice wes heaved. Ed weiner, the ranger at Other Creek Marsh, took us out on the dikes in his pickup the lois flew up as we were driving East to West along the North Dike. They flew alongside the pickup for about 30 Seconds before going back down into the cattails, The two birds were all dark and when the set their wings to land the son shining on their back and wings made them look an invidescent green celor. the bill on both birds were very long (compared to the body longth) and strongly decorred. We could not get them togs to get them to fly up again. dike to the South and waded and wade woise to get them to fly up again. they did net as we were leaving I looked behind and saw them feeding in a they did net as we were leaving through the Celosten celo the back 33X, after taking a few pictures through it, showed we white around the base of the bill. The eye looked extremely dark and brownish bot in the stelle of the cattails could have been somewhat exagerated it the lighting. One of the cattails could have been somewhat exagerated it the lighting. One of the cattails could have been somewhat exagerated it the birds or of the birds wes of a douler sheen and could have been a younger bird or	
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Similar species and how eliminated: white ibis is not this dark even in immature plumeage. All dark colored heron do not have long decurved bill like these birds.	I the birds was the brief
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Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? Only as to species

If yes, explain: Almost impossible (if not impossible) to speciate Plegadis (Glossy and White-faced) in the fall.

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Excellent viewing conditions, sonny seen from about 30 feet at closest with 7×35mm B+L Roof Prism binoculars. Also Viewed through Nikkormat FTN Comera with celestron C90 mounted on it at 20× at approximately 50 yards. Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen guite a few Glossy (bis

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen quite a few Glossy Ibis and one white Ibis while in Virginia a few years ago. No experience with while-faced Ibis. References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? <u>3 Hes.</u> this form completed? <u>5 HRS.</u>

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

147210 myera 83-28 Notes of Identification - Fall 1983 Abis sp. (Plegadis sp.) - Both birds were keron-like long-legged waders about the size of a title Blue Heron but with fairly long decurred bills. neck and lego were held outstretched in flight. Both appear dark - one was brownish (imm.) and one sort of greenish - jungle with a reddish cast. In flight, the backs of both bids showed a greenish tint in the sun. While it is very difficult to sperate the two species in fall & believe these birds, at least the adult, were glossy ibis. There was no hint of any reddich facial skin - it was dark same as bill). These was no trace of any white facial outlining. White face sometimes retains a short whitish line from eye to bill. The eye appeared dark (brownish) not red. However, in light of the difficulty of the identification, Stis sp. 10 probably The best way to leave it. Ed Wares, Wildlife Jeck. at Otter Creek, studied These 1 birds for a long time at close range with his scope and be also felt they were Hom V: