

White-faced Ibis  
19 May 1981  
Willow Slough, Mills Co., IA  
\*B. Wilson  
IBL 51:64, 52:42

Record Number: 81-05  
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Barbara L. Wilson

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 51:64

Records Committee: 52:42

VOTE: 7-III

III, Good details.

III, Good, detailed description. Could be 2 if 14 seen 13 May nearby.

III, Good record by one observer. Evidence for white-face is strong.

III, Excellent description by very careful observer!

1. Species White-faced Ibis 2. Number 2  
 3. Location Willow Slough, N.E. Mills County, Iowa  
 4. Date: May 19, 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 6:30 to 7:00 +

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):

(Fairly large). Mahogany on most of the body, with the wings a dark iridescent greenish black that shines yellow and often pink. Bill long, decurved, gray. Lores bright pink, eyes small + round + shiny - hard, red like hard candies. There is a white band under the bare skin of face, around behind eyes (complete behind ~~birds~~ the eyes of both birds) + ~~over~~ above the bare skin to meet above the bill. Legs long, with toes ~~very long~~ not very long, + they look partly webbed (hard to be sure as the birds rarely lift the toes above the water). Legs basically gray, but knees bright reddish pink, + also leg above knee, half way up to feathers on outside of legs, + almost all the way ~~up~~ up to the feathers.  
 7. Description of voice, if heard: on the inside. Pinkish color, duller, at the bases of the toes. Much pink iridescence  
 Voice: high 2-syllable "quack"  
 8. Description of behavior: on dark feathers under wing when the birds stretch them up.  
 See other paper  
 9. Habitat - general:

specific: Wading in pool behind beaver dam in marshy slough. No large vegetation on there; Eleocharis at edges.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

That large, dark, with decurved bill it must be a Glossy or White-faced Ibis. Complete, wide white stripes around the face indicates White-faced.

11. Distance (how measured)?

Maybe 50 yards at first, but they waded closer so the height of the bird's body was over 1/2 the diameter of the field of view at 40x! Close!

12. Optical equipment:

Perhaps soft-parts color tells too but I  
 20,40x scope

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): don't know.

Sunny, clear, birds east + slightly ~~west~~ south of me. Couldn't be better.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

I saw one Glossy Ibis in fall in Delaware. In other words, ~~just about none.~~

15. Other observers:

None.

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

None until later.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? <sup>while they were still there.</sup>

Signature: Barbara L Wilson

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Date: 24 May 1981

City, State: Hastings Iowa 51540

## Behavior:

Wading about, in shallow water but more often nearly up to their abdomen. Putting the bill, often with the whole head + neck, under water. Most of the prey is small + I can't see to it, but they do get crayfish too. They usually drop the crayfish as they smash it between the mandibles (~~as~~ while wading toward shore) but one swallowed a crayfish whole after smashing it. A lump goes down the bird's neck.

A white-tailed Deer comes to drink in the pool. It stares + points its ears at the strange birds. Slowly it wades toward them + they wade away, slowly. Gaining confidence, ~~the~~ the deer waded ~~the~~ faster + the ~~the~~ ibises took off, calling. They flew with legs stretched out behind + neck ~~the~~ stretched out before.