

Ibis species

7 May 1960

Coralville Res., Johnson Co., IA

F. W. Kent

Kent 1960

Record Number: 81-JB

Classification: A-D

REFERENCE

Kent, F.W. 1960. Spring and summer notes from Iowa City. IBL 30:66-67.

VOTE (1981): for sp. 5-III, 1-IV; for White-faced 1-III, 4-V; for Glossy 4-V, 1-VI

No detail, but observer could not miss it as an ibis.

no description given.

no details provided; based solely on observer's reputation.

Ibis sp.

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Spring and Summer Notes from the Iowa City Region.—Severe winter weather with heavy snow and below-freezing temperatures into the first three weeks of March, 1960, apparently delayed spring arrivals, so it was March 28 before the first spring bird was seen—a very late date, indeed. Perhaps that would also explain the scarcity of Mallards and Pintails, even with large water areas, and where the year before there were estimated over 50,000 of these. Possibly these early ducks, having been held back so long, just went on over, for only scattered pairs and very small flocks were seen. But there were large numbers of all the other ducks through April and May in the Coralville Reservoir area. The high water level in the Reservoir (80% full at one time), flooded fields, and ponds attracted the best shore-bird population in years; this extended into the first week of June. Among the early species, Snipe, Pectorals and Yellowlegs were abundant; Golden Plovers from April 4 to May 22, with one flock of 200 seen by the Laudes; both Godwits on May 1; an Avocet on May 4; and on May 7, a cold rainy day, a Glossy Ibis feeding steadily beside a marsh pond, seemingly so out of place; it was also seen by Lillian Serbousek.] 9

The late shore-bird season was very fine, extending into the first week of June. After the Least Sandpiper came the Semipalmated with sizeable flocks of Dunlins and White-rumped, the latter in flocks up to 200. They stayed around long enough and at close enough range to permit careful study of them. We found that size, shape, voice, and detailed breast and shoulder markings make a better set of clues for identification than the white rumps which could only be seen at certain angles in these fast-flying birds. Among these larger groups were also Stilt, Baird's, Sanderling and two Turnstones in transition plumage.

The larger water area also attracted all the herons. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were seen several times with one group of five on May 2 feeding at close range. An adult Little Blue Heron was seen by the Laudes on April 23, and Egrets appeared at about the same time but continued on into the summer in numbers from 20 to 50, with some evidence that they nested in a rookery at the upper end of the Reservoir. Little Green Herons seemed almost abundant.

Swan Lake and the nearby area was again attractive to nesting Blue-winged Teal, Mallards, Ruddy Ducks (we saw both adults and five young on August 13), large numbers of Coots, Grebes, Gallinules, as well as a number of Least Bitterns. An American Bittern was heard "pumping" in the first two weeks of June and an immature was seen on August 13. Curiously, the pumping came mostly from a clover field adjoining the marsh. On May 28, a female Hooded Merganser with six very small young put on a distraction display in a roadside ditch near the Reservoir.

Among the other birds, there was a marked scarcity of Hermit Thrushes, a good migration of Fox Sparrows, a Henslow's Sparrow on June 7 and 9. It was singing (if one could call it that) even at night. A Western Kingbird was photographed on May 30, a new record for us. We had a fine warbler migration with a new record of a Worm-eating Warbler in the deep woods at Lake Macbride. This warbler was observed at close range.—FRED W. KENT, 7 East Market Street, Iowa City, Iowa.