

White Ibis
5 Sep 1995

Record Number: 95-61
Classification: A-P

Coralville Res., Johnson Co., IA

*Edwards, *Fuller, *Kent, *Dinsmore, *Peters
to 16 Sep; P-0464, IBL 66:18, 95; 66(1), Kent 1998

DOCUMENTATIONS

Chris Edward, 85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty 52317 [3/24/96]

Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, Iowa City 52240 [*3/24/96]

Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City 52246

Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames 50014 [3/24/96]

Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport 52803

[3/24/96]

PHOTOGRAPH

Thomas H. Kent, 6 Sep 1995, P-0464 (IBL 66(1), 68:26
and Field Notes 50:61, 1996

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:18

Photo: IBL 66(1) cover and IBL 68:26 (P-0464)

Records Committee: IBL 66:95

Kent, T. H. 1998. Immature White Ibis at Coralville Reservoir.

IBL 68:25-26.

Field Notes 50:61, 1996, P-0464

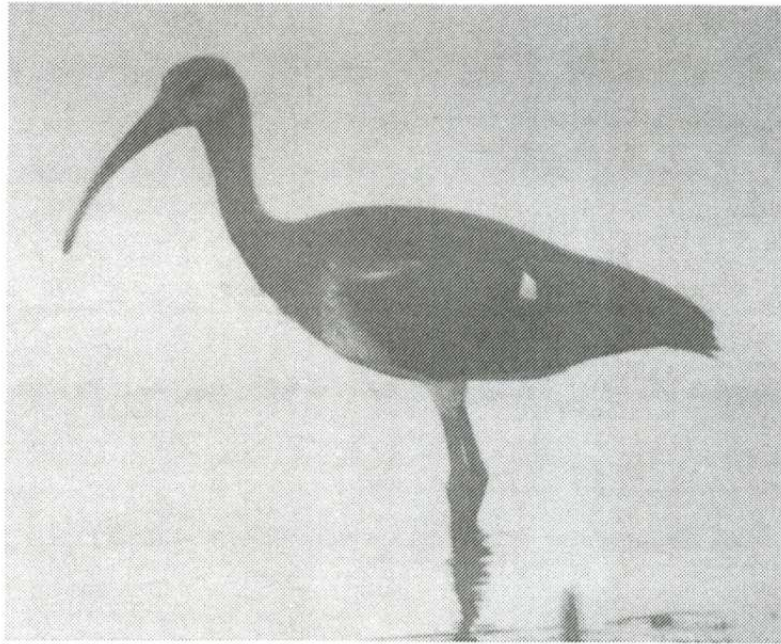
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IOWA BIRD LIFE

Winter 1996 Volume 66 Number 1



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

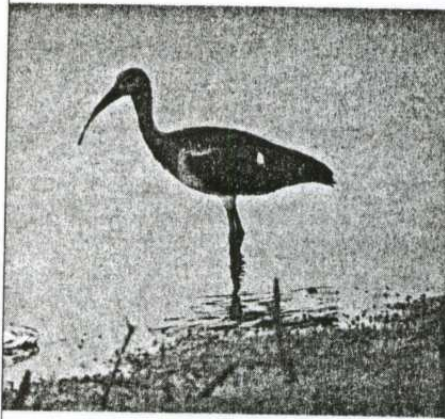
ricane waifs include frigatebird, Gull-billed Tern, and Sooty Tern. The early arrival of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Northern Shrikes, and selected winter finches raised hopes for a winter invasion of boreal species.

Abbreviations: Jax.P. (*Jackson Park on the Chicago lakefront*); H.B.S.P. (*Headlands Beach S.P., OH*); L. Cal. (*L. Calumet, Chicago*); O.N.W.R. (*Ottawa N.W.R., OH*); S.C.R., (*Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*).

Loons to Ibises

The number of Pacific Loon reports from inland sites continues to increase. This fall's tally included a remarkable five from Iowa and two from Indiana. Pied-billed Grebes were unusually numerous with peak counts of 364 at Saylorville Res., IA Sept. 14 (SD), 200 in Decatur, IL Oct. 28 (MDe), and 108 at L. Rockwell, OH Nov.18 (LR). The Red-necked Grebe count was also above normal, with six from Ohio, three from Indiana, and two in Illinois. The easternmost Eared Grebe occupied a Cincinnati gravel pit Nov. 14-19 (FR, m.ob.). An impressive 22 W. Grebes were recorded in Iowa, and two wandered E to Indiana where they appeared at L. Lemon Oct. 26-Nov. 15 (RTi, m.ob.) and Miller Beach Nov.16 & 22 (JMc, JcD, m.ob.). A well-described Clark's Grebe was at Pleasant Creek L., IA Nov. 12-13 (†CE, †TK, †JFU, m.ob.). It was another fine season for Am. White Pelicans, with tallies exceeding 2000 from all 3 w. states; peak counts included 10,000 at Saylorville Res., IA Sept. 16 (SD, JDi) and >3500 at Mark Twain N.W.R., IL Oct. 28 (HW). A straggler wandered E to Brown, OH where it was seen Aug. 6 (JR, *vide NK*). A brownish-plumed, white-breasted frigatebird (presumably a Magnificent) was discovered flying along the Mississippi R. at mile marker 266 Oct. 13; the bird was seen flying over both St. Charles, MO and Hardin, IL (†MHU).

Although bitterns remained scarce, heron and egret numbers were generally quite encouraging. Noteworthy reports included a late Least Bittern at Illinois Beach S.P., Oct. 7 (ASt), a late Great Egret at Clinton L., IL Nov.18 (RCh, m.ob.), 88 Snowy Egrets in Alexander and Union, IL Sept. 4 (JDu, ST), and 250 Little Blue Herons in Monroe, IL Aug.10 (MDe). In contrast to most herons, Green Herons were scarce, especially in Ohio, where the peak count at Ottawa N.W.R. was only two (EP). An unexpected development was above-normal Yellow-crowned Night-



Considered overdue was this immature White Ibis, a first for Iowa, at Coralville Reservoir September 6, 1995. Photograph/T. H. Kent.

Heron numbers across the 4 n. states. Most noteworthy was the appearance of ≥three juveniles in Lake, IN (JMc, m.ob.) and an adult at Griggs Dam, OH Sept. 4 (RTh). Long overdue, Iowa's first White Ibis, an imm. bird, was discovered at Coralville Res., Sept. 5 and remained through Sept. 16 (JHu, †JFU, †TK, ph. †m.ob.). Perhaps even more remarkable was an astonishingly late ad. White Ibis at the Miami R. oxbow near Lawrenceburg, IN Nov. 4-7 (FR, LG, †MB, JMc, m.ob.), that provided the Region's first November record. The only identified White-faced Ibis was in Havana, IL Nov. 7-10 (KR).

Waterfowl to Cranes

White-fronted Geese were unusually widespread with numerous reports, including ten at H.B.S.P., Nov. 4 (EB) and four at Killdeer Plains, OH Nov.12 (DO), where this species is casual in fall. Snow Geese were also plentiful, with glowing reports from all quarters. Accompanying the Snow Geese were small numbers of Ross' Geese; the easternmost report consisted of two at Fermi, IL Nov. 2 (PK). Two Brants at Sangchris S.P., IL Nov. 13 (†DBo) constituted the Region's only record. The Region enjoyed a very heavy duck migration that yielded fine counts of most dabblers. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at De Soto N.W.R., Oct. 27 (†TK) provided Iowa's first fall record since 1933. Bay ducks also staged a strong flight; the single most impressive tally consisted of 48,000 Canvasback on a Mississippi R. (Keokuk-Nauvoo) aerial survey Nov. 13 (MG). As expected, Harlequin Ducks were restricted to the Great Lakes, where three were seen along the Indiana lakefront and two were found in Lake, OH. Following the pattern of recent years, small numbers of Oldsquaw and all 3 scoters appeared across the Region. Notable observations included 12

Black Scoters at Grand L., OH Nov.11 (AF), three Surf Scoters on the Ohio R. near Warsaw, KY Nov. 23 (LMc), and an Indiana record count of 147 White-winged Scoters on L. Michigan Nov.18 (JcD, JMc, m.ob.). Additional high counts included 248 Hooded Mergansers in Steuben, IN Nov. 24 (Haw *et al.*) and 2000 Ruddy Ducks at Clinton L., IL Oct. 29 (RCh).

An impressive 170 Black Vultures were reported at Rock Fork L., OH Nov. 5 (*vide NK*). In contrast, several correspondents noted declines in Turkey Vulture numbers. A downy Mississippi Kite was still in the Clive, IA nest Aug. 14 (JFu), and a juvenile and adult remained in the area until Sept. 10 (JCI). A juv. and two ad. Mississippi Kites were also reported from the traditional Indiana nesting area in Pike S.F., Aug. 23 & 30 (YL, †ML) and one was still present in Jersey, IL Aug. 26 (HW). Several mid-October days produced extraordinary hawk flights at Illinois Beach S.P., which is located on the L. Michigan shoreline n. of Chicago. Northern Harriers were well represented there, with excellent counts of 105 Oct. 15 (DJ *et al.*) and 81 Oct. 28 (WS). The site also yielded an Illinois record 531 Sharpshinned Hawks Oct.15 (DJ *et al.*). The Region's 17 N. Goshawks was slightly above average for a non-invasion year. The peak Broad-winged Hawk counts consisted of 1576 in Oak Openings, OH Sept. 18 (TKp) and 440 in Boone, MO Sept. 22 (PMc). Swainson's Hawks performed well at the Hitchcock W.M.A, IA hawk watch, where a peak of 97 Oct. 27 contributed to a record season count of 245 (B&LP). Fine daily Red-tailed Hawk counts were logged at Illinois Beach S.P., where 389 were tallied in 2.5 hours Nov. 4 (JO) and 310 Oct. 29 (ASt *et al.*). Golden Eagles were more common than normal, with 21 birds scattered across the 4 n. states. By any standard Merlins staged an incredible flight. In addition to expected numbers across the Region, the phenomenal 97 Merlins observed migrating past Illinois Beach S.P., Oct.14 (EW *et al.*) established an all-time high count for Illinois. Prairie Falcons were reported at Bays Branch W.M.A., IA Nov. 7 (SD) and at Monticello, IL Nov. 8 (RCh).

Yellow Rails were detected as follows: two at Snake Cr. Marsh, IA Sept. 28 (TK), one at L. Macbride, IA (JFu), and one in Calloway, MO Oct. 28 (†BJ, m.ob.). Two King Rails in St. Clair, IL Sept. 3 (DKa) constituted the Region's only report. Encouragingly, the 25 Com. Moorhens at Eagle Park, IL Sept. 17 (WR) and 15 young at Palatine, IL Sept. 19 (CFI) pro-



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coverts are typical of juvenile light-morph Ferruginous Hawk. A close view or view from a favorable angle is needed to confirm many of these field marks. The large size and long narrow wings typical of Ferruginous Hawk are useful to the experienced observer.

LITERATURE CITED

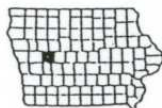
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- Kent, T. H., and J. J. Dinsmore. 1996. *Birds in Iowa*. Privately published, Iowa City.
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211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

BRANT IN CARROLL COUNTY

RUSS BEHRENS

On 29 November 1996, while viewing a large flock of Canada Geese at Swan Lake State Park in Carroll County, I noticed one bird perched on the ice that was quite different from the 1,500-2,000 Canada Geese that were present. Those geese were mostly intermediate-sized Canada Geese, smaller than the "Giant" Canada Geese that typically nest in Iowa. This bird was somewhat smaller than the other geese, about the size of the much smaller "Hutchins" subspecies of Canada Goose that migrates through Iowa. The bird was obviously some type of waterfowl but stayed away from the rest of the waterfowl that were present. The most obvious difference was its coloration. Its head, neck, and chest were all very dark, almost black, in color. There was a white ring around the neck, noticeable but not so pronounced as in a Canada Goose. The sides of the body were also dark colored but had some white bands or stripes on them. The rear of the body was pure white. Besides being smaller than the Canada Geese that were present, the bird's bill was shorter and blunter and the neck was also shorter in proportion to its body. In shape, it looked very much like a "Hutchins" Goose. Based on the bird's coloration, size, and shape, I identified it as a Brant, most likely of the western *nigricans* subspecies. Several other people who were with me also saw the bird and agreed that it was different from the Canada Geese. I talked to people at the park, and they told me that it was not a domestic bird that had been released at the park. There are four other reports of Brant from Iowa, all of them reported in fall (Kent and Dinsmore, *Birds in Iowa*, 1996).



907 East 10th Street, Spencer, IA 51301

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WHITE-WINGED DOVE AT LE GRAND IN MARSHALL COUNTY

MARK PROESCHOLDT

On 28 April 1997, I was at the high school parking lot in Le Grand. As I got out of my van, I heard the loud, distinctive call of a White-winged Dove. It was the loud "who cooks for you" call that I have heard and enjoyed on a number of trips to southeastern Arizona. I walked to the yard next to the parking lot and saw a White-winged Dove fly from one tree to another. In my initial look at it, it looked much like a Mourning Dove with bright white wing patches.

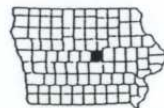


Fig 1. White-winged Dove at Le Grand, Marshall County, 28 April, 1997. Photo by Thomas H. Kent.



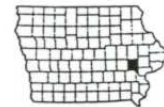
On 1 May 1997, I saw it perched on wires by a church near the school and saw the white slash on its wings. On 10 May I heard it calling and saw it flying around some. At that time, I first saw the white in its tail and the squared-off end of the tail. Many people saw this bird, and it stayed at least through 17 May. This is the second state record of a White-winged Dove following the first sighting on a White-winged Dove by Nelson Hoskins of Ottumwa on 8-14 April 1997 at his feeder during a snow storm.

Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148

✓ IMMATURE WHITE IBIS AT CORALVILLE RESERVOIR

THOMAS H. KENT

An immature White Ibis was found at Half-moon Lake on Greencastle Avenue in the Hawkeye Wildlife Area of the Coralville Reservoir in Johnson County on the afternoon of 5 September 1995 by James Huntington. James immediately notified many local birders who saw the bird that evening, and the word was spread so that many birders were able to see the ibis on their way to or from the I.O.U. meeting in Davenport the next weekend.



The bird was obviously an ibis with long legs and neck, and thick, down-turned bill. The upper parts were brown and the belly, under rump, and upper thighs white. The gray of the belly extended up around the leading edge of the wing. On the left side of the folded wing (but not on the right) there was a conspicuous white spot. The head, neck, and upper breast were streaked brown. The soft brown of the face was

lighter below and behind the eye. The thin ring of skin around the eye and in front of the eye was pink-orange. The pupil was dark. The bill was dark gray-brown on the inner half and yellow-orange on the outer half. The legs were dark gray. In flight, the distal one-third of the tail was brown and proximal tail and rump white, with a triangular wedge of white up the back. The upper wing was uniform brown, but the underwing coverts were white with brown leading edge. The bird was heard to make a grunting sound.

During the first evening and the next morning the bird paid little attention to the birders as it picked up small dead fish on the exposed mud flats on the edge of the old oxbow. It walked directly in front of the viewers as close as 10 yards away. When it flew, it generally went to the west where several attempts to locate it were unsuccessful. For the remainder of its sojourn, it often appeared unexpectedly and frequented the far side of the oxbow. I saw the bird on 10 of the 12 days it was present from 5 to 16 September.

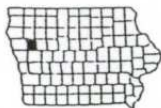
White Ibis is a regular vagrant north of its normal range on the Gulf Coast and southern East Coast. Most vagrants are found from May to September. A few have wandered north as far as Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota. This is the first record for Iowa.

21 I Richards St., Iowa City 52246

VERMILION FLYCATCHER IN IDA COUNTY

CURTIS L. RECTOR

I arrived home on 24 May 1997 at 2 p.m. My parents and nephew had seen a bird in our backyard that they thought at first was a Northern Cardinal. Being an avid birdwatcher, I checked it out myself. The first sighting I had was of a red bird on the grass near the bittersweet hedge. But I could see right away that it was not a cardinal as it lacked a crest, and it had dark feathers. One of the first things I noticed was that it was much tamer than most birds are. We were standing about 50 feet from the bird, which did not seem to mind our presence and continued on with its activity. The bird's plumage was red, except for its wings and tail, which looked brown. At this point, I thought it could be a Scarlet Tanager. I got my binoculars and could see brown plumage down its back from the bird's head to its tail. As I watched it, the bird was taking off from the grass, flying into the air to snatch an insect, and then landing on a nearby fence. From this, I could tell it had to be a species of flycatcher. It continued this activity, and also went from fence to brushpile, almost stopping in mid-air to catch another insect. I watched for about 5-10 minutes until it flew west toward our farm grove and out of sight. I had taken



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mental notes of this bird during the time I watched it and returned to the house for a bird book to confirm its identity. I looked in my copy of Birds of North America and positively identified this bird as a male Vermilion Flycatcher. I knew it had to be a rare sighting in Iowa but I didn't know how rare until I read that this species is common in the Southwest. I went back outside to see if I could see if I could find it again but I could not locate it. I then called the Iowa Birdline to report it, being a rare sighting in the state.

This is only the fourth record of this southwestern species in Iowa. Two of the other reports were also in May and the third was in October. Ironically, I also saw a Vermilion Flycatcher at Rice Lake in Worth County on 13 May 1988 (Anderson Iowa Bird Life 59:63, 1989), the second sighting in the state.

1531 Harvest Ave., Holstein, IA 51025-8117

I.O.U. BUSINESS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marshalltown, 7 March 1998, 10:58 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Mark Proescholdt, presiding

Present: Dan Dorrance, Maridel Jackson, Ann Johnson, Curt Nelson, Mark Proescholdt, Jim Scheib, Carol Thompson. Also attending: Jim Dinsmore and Hank Zalelet.

Reports

Future meetings: Plans are coming along well for the 75th anniversary meeting in Ames this spring. The Fall 1998 meeting will probably be held at Camp Sunnyside near Des Moines. It was moved (Dorrance, seconded by Jackson) to accept the Rathbun Bird Club's invitation to host the Spring 1999 meeting in the Centerville area in May 1999, pending approval by the membership. Motion passed. Sites for future I.O.U. meetings were discussed briefly.

Meeting Funds: The board reaffirmed the existing policy of splitting any extra money from I.O.U. meetings on a 50:50 basis between the I.O.U. and the local host. Any extra money for the I.O.U. will go into the I.O.U. meeting fund.

Dues: The board approved the current dues structure except for life memberships. It was moved (Thompson, seconded by Johnson) that, effective in 1999, Life Memberships be structured to 25 years of the regular membership rate. Motion passed.

Teacher Activity Books: Zalelet discussed the book and how it was being marketed. It was moved (Johnson, seconded by Thompson) to sell I.O.U. materials such as booklets and checklists to third parties for resale for cost plus 30%. Motion passed.

Migratory Bird Book: Zalelet reported that all of the writing for this book is complete and the book should be done by June 1998.

T-shirts and Hats: Dinsmore reported on plans to have I.O.U. t-shirts available at the spring meeting. Scheib reported that I.O.U. hats will also be ready then.

Treasurer's Position: The board discussed the possibility of splitting up the duties of the Treasurer to help alleviate the large amount of time needed to carry out the Treasurer's duties. It was moved (Thompson, seconded by Johnson) that "The Board recommends the establishment of an administrative position to be called the Registrar to report to the Board. The major duties of the Registrar shall be upkeep of membership files, preparing and distributing renewal notices, maintaining the membership directory, distributing lists and mailing labels, and undertaking correspondence as necessary." Motion passed. The possibility of offering an honorarium for certain I.O.U. positions was also discussed but no action was taken.

Funding Requests: Acting on the directive of the membership at the fall 1997 business meeting, the board discussed what policy should be established for funding requests to the I.O.U. from outside sources. It was moved (Jackson, seconded by Scheib) that all proposals shall be directed to the Board. Proposals for \$500 or less can be acted upon by the Board. Proposals for greater than that amount shall be discussed by the board and presented to the membership for approval. All funding requests are limited to amounts budgeted for each fiscal year. Motion passed.

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DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR IOWA BIRD SIGHTINGS

Chris Edwards, 85 Whitman Avenue, North Liberty, IA 52317

What Species? White Ibis (immature)

How many? 1

Location? Hawkeye Wildlife Area (Coralville Reservoir), Johnson Co.

Type of Habitat? Muddy shoreline.

When? September 5, 1995, 5:10 p.m. - 5:25 p.m., 6:15 p.m.;

September 6, 1995, 7:15 p.m. (flying over)

September 13, 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.;

September 16, 8:00 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Who? Chris Edwards, 85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty, IA 52317.

Others with you: James Huntington

Others before or after you: Before - Cal and Bernie Knight. After - Jim Scheib.

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Details noted on standing bird: typical ibis shape, with long decurved bill, small head, long neck, long legs. Bill tricolored: basal one-half brownish-gray, distal one-half yellowish-orange, extreme tip gray. Dull pinkish facial skin extending back from the base of the upper mandible and encompassing the eye. Eye dark. Head, neck, upper back, and breast streaked light brown, except for lighter whitish cheek patch. Middle back, wings, and tail dark brown, with a very small amount of white speckling. Belly and undertail coverts white, with white extending upwards in a crescent shape in front of and slightly above the folded wings. White feathering on thighs extended down almost halfway to knee. Legs and feet dull gray.

Details noted on flying bird: underwings white except for dark brown flight feathers.

Upperwings, middle back, and uppertail dark brown. Large white patch from the rump to the lower back, wider on the rump and narrower on the back.

On September 5 from 5:10 p.m. to 5:25 p.m. the bird was actively foraging in shallow water along the shoreline, probing in the water with its bill and eating what appeared to be dead fish. At 5:25 p.m. the bird was startled and flew out of sight, but returned to the same location at 6:15 p.m. On September 6 at 7:15 p.m. the bird flew over the area. On September 13 and 16 the bird was again seen feeding and resting along the shoreline.

Similar species; how eliminated: Glossy Ibis and White-faced Ibis have dark underparts and dark bills.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? No.

Viewing conditions: Partial sunlight from the side, 40 yards away. Viewed with 8 x 40 binoculars and 15x - 45x telescope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: No previous experience with species. Minimal experience with White-faced Ibis.

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DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR IOWA BIRD SIGHTINGS

Chris Edwards, 85 Whitman Avenue, North Liberty, IA 52317

References and persons consulted before writing description: National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Peterson Eastern Birds.

How long before field notes made? During observation.

How long before this form completed? Three hours.

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DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

SPECIES: White Ibis (Juvenile)

LOCATION: Water and mudflat area along Greencastle Avenue at Coralville Reservoir (Johnson County)

DATE & TIME: 5 September, 1995 (6:20-6:50 PM)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240

OTHERS: Discovered by James Huntington. Seen at same time as Jim Scheib, Tom Kent, and James Huntington. Later MOB.

DESCRIPTION: This bird was an Ibis with long legs and neck, and the typical thick downturned bill. It was roughly the size of a small egret or heron. The bird was generally brown above and with white underparts. The head and neck were streaked brown, and the upper breast had the streaking cutoff, much like a Pectoral Sandpiper. The eye was dark, and had a pinkish-orange eye ring and facial skin just to the front of the eye. The large downcurved bill was much thicker at the base, and came to a rounded tip. It was two-toned with a distal half that was yellow and a basal half that was gray. The wing and back were a dark brown, and the tail was even darker. There was a white area on the side which wrapped around the bend of the wing. The underparts were white. The legs were gray.

In flight, white wing linings were very evident, and there was an odd-shaped white area on the rump and back...somewhat triangular in shape. There was also a dark tail band. In flight, the bird took 5-6 wingbeats and then a short glide.

Vocalization was heard once...a one noted grunt.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Juvenile Glossy and White-faced Ibis have dark underparts, all gray bill, and do not exhibit the wing linings or white area on back while in flight.

CONDITIONS and OPTICS: The bird was viewed with a KOWA TSN4 telescope (20-60 X zoom) mostly at 20X. I was looking north late in the evening at distances from 200 feet down to 60 feet. When it was so close, I used Swift Audubon (8.5 X 44) binoculars.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: I have seen White Ibis, including juvenile birds, several times in the SE US, the last in July of this year in North Carolina.

REFERENCES & FIELD NOTES: Field notes were taken as I watched the bird, and this form was typed on 8 September. I did look at both National Geographic and Peterson Field Guides after making field notes.

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DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Species: White Ibis; *Number:* 1 imm.

Location: DuPont Bridge Road, Coralville Reservoir, Johnson Co., IA

Date: 5,6 September 1995; *Time:* 6:35 to 6:50 p.m.; 6:55 to 10:30 a.m.

Name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

Others before/with/after: found by James Huntington; with James and Jim Fuller of the 5th and many others on the 6th.

Habitat and circumstances: old oxbow with mud flats.

Description of bird: A large, long-legged bird with large decurved bill. Obviously an ibis. The bill was gray on the inner half and yellow on the outer half. The underparts were light gray to white on the rump. The gray extended up along the folded wing to give a collar effect. There was a tiny white spot on the wing. The facial skin and thin ring of skin around the eye was dull orange. The head was soft brown with a lighter area behind and below the eye. The back and scapulars were a soft tan-brown. The wing coverts were darker brown with only a suggestion of lighter feather edging. The long, thick legs were dark gray. In flight, the tail had a brown terminal band (one-third of tail), and the proximal tail and lower back were pure white. The upper wing was uniform brown. The underwing was white with brown edging -- thin in front and about one-fourth of the wing width behind. The bird fed along the edge of the mud flats, eating small fish. In the evening, it was within 15 yards and unconcerned by the viewers. It suddenly took off and ahead east. It was back the next morning when birders arrived. It again walked right by the observers as we were standing in the parking lot only about 10 yards away.

Voice: It made a grunting sound once.

Similar species: Glossy and White-faced ibises are similar structurally, but never show white underparts or white rump.

Any one have reservations?: no.

Light: overcast; *Distance:* 10 yards; *Optics:* 10x binocular, 20x scope, 420 and 750 mm lens.

Previous experience: have seen many in Florida.

References before/after viewing: We looked at field guides at various times.

Time of notes: during first viewing; *Final typing:* 19 hours.

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DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: White Ibis
Number: 1 juvenile
Location: Hawkeye W.A., Johnson Co.
Habitat: shallow pond with surrounding mudflats
Date: 6,9 September 1995
Time: 6:25-10:30 a.m. on the 6th and 7:05-7:08 p.m. on the 9th
Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014
Others who saw bird: Jim Huntington, m.ob.

Description of bird(s): The bird was a medium-sized heron, clearly smaller than the many Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets that were present. I estimated the bird was about one third smaller than a Great Egret in direct comparison. The mantle and upperwings were dark, sooty brown with a couple of small white spots on the wing coverts. The head and neck were brown, but lighter than the mantle. The eye was dark. The bill was long and decurved, the basal half dark and the distal half yellowish. The belly and vent were white. There was a strong demarcation between the white belly and brown foreneck. Depending on the angle, the long legs appeared dull gray or yellow-green. The rectrices were dark brown. The facial skin was dull red. In flight, the wing linings were white. The rump was white, forming an inverted V on the back like the pattern on a dowitcher. The upperwings were dark in flight. The bird flew with the characteristic shallow, stiff wingbeats of an ibis.

Jim Dinsmore, Hank Zaletel, and I looked for this bird on the afternoon of 8 September for about 2 hours without luck. We stopped again on the evening of 9 September, hoping the bird would be present. We quickly checked the pond and did not locate the bird. As we were about to leave, Jim Dinsmore spotted the bird flying overhead, heading ENE. We assumed the bird came from a distant pool somewhere to the west. It was followed by about 35 Great Egrets and appeared to be heading somewhere to roost for the night.

Similar species and how eliminated: The combination of bill shape and white color in the wings and tail and on the underparts eliminates other herons, especially other ibis.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with overcast skies. Estimated viewing distance was 100m initially, but the bird later walked to within 10m. I used 10x42 binoculars and a 20-60x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: I am very familiar with this species from recent work in North Carolina.

References consulted: NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes made: written during initial observation
How long before this form completed: 10 September

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

95-61

What species? White Ibis - imm. How many? 1

Location? Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson Co. - near Dupont Br

Type of Habitat? mud edged pool near Iowa River

When? date(s): Sep. 6, 1995 time: 7:10 AM to 7:30 AM C.S.T.

Who? your name and address: Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd, Davis IA 52809

Others with you: Tim Schantz, Tom Kent, Steve Dinsmore

Others before or after you: no.

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Small wader - long neck, downcurved ^{grey} brown bill, very long.
Legs grey, belly white, head and neck mottled brownish grey,
wings + back brown with one white wing feather. Not seen in flight.

Similar species; how eliminated: All other Ibises much darker, herons have straight bills.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. OC - light source behind obs, closest distance about 20 m. - 10X40 Zeiss binocs + 40X Kowa scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen the species many times in CA, TX, FL.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none.

How long before field notes made? 1 hr. this form completed? 8 hrs.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).