

White-faced Ibis
13 May 1982
Forney Lake, Fremant Co., IA
*T. Kent, *R. Phipps
to 05/18; IBL 52:54; 53:35

Record Number: 82-05
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Thomas H. Kent, 13 May
Ruth Phipps, 20 May

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 52:54
Records Committee: IBL 53:35

VOTE: 2-II, 4-III, 1-abstain
[no comments]

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation
by the Records Committee
of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: White-faced ibis

DATE SEEN: 13-18 May 1982

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Forney Lake, Fremont Co., Iowa

OBSERVERS: Phipps, Kent

DATE OF REVIEW: 22 Aug 1982

METHOD OF REVIEW: mail vote

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: III

COMMENTS:

The records committee felt that the descriptions submitted were adequate to identify the birds as White-faced ibis rather than Plegadis, sp.

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.

What species? White-faced Ibis How many? 2Location? Forney L., Fremont Co., IowaType of habitat? marshWhen? date(s): 13 May 1982 time: 4:10 to 4:20 pmWho? your name and address: Thomas H. Kentothers with you: Ross Silcock, Tom Standtothers before or after you: none

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.

"Two dark Ibises. Long legs, dark rusty sheen to body, neck & back. Green iridescence to wings.

Bill long, decurved, uniformly dark gray-brown.

White feathers on face around eye. Eye red.

Legs dark reddish purple."

Tarsus and tibia as well as knee red.

No red seen in bill.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Glossy Ibis - white on face, red eye, and red legs eliminate
this species

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Overcast, 20x scope, 15x Celestron lens, 40-75 yds (est)

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Photographed White-faced at L. Meador last year. Have seen Glossy in past.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 2 1/2 hours

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

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

82-05

1. Species White-faced Ibis 2. Number 2
 3. Location Forney Lake, Fremont CO.
 4. Date: 5-18-82 5. Time Bird Seen: 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM
 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):
The birds were medium sized, heron-like about 20" with a long decurved grayish beak and dark chestnut color. A broad white band lined the face over the beak around the eyes and under the chin. The birds were feeding in the marsh grass & water so I could not see the feet or legs.
 7. Description of voice, if heard: didn't hear the voice.
 8. Description of behavior: They were feeding & a little nervous as I tried to get a little closer in the car.
 9. Habitat - general: marshy
specific: Forney Lake which has a lot of water this spring
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Marshy Ibis - this area is out of its territory, and the broad white line on the face eliminates it.
 11. Distance (how measured)? Estimate 12. Optical equipment: Sporomaster II
about 100 feet Scope with zoom.
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): The sun was not shining and since I was looking west at the birds, the sun would have been behind me.
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen White-faced Ibis at Bear R. Refuge in Utah, Squaw Creek, Mo., and Salton Sea, Calif., and Marshy Ibis in Florida.
 15. Other observers: Alan Priebe saw one ibis 5-17 but did not have scope or binocs & did not identify it as to species.
 16. Did the others agree with your identification?
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Birds of North America - Robson, A Field Guide to the Birds - Peterson
Audubon Water Bird Guide - Pough, Life Histories of the Am. Marsh Birds - Bent
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 5-20-82
- Signature: Ruth Phipps Address: 310 University
Date: 5-20-82 City, State: Hammond, Iowa