

Roseate Spoonbill

16 Aug 1960

Union Slough NWR, Kossuth Co., IA

H.H. Burgess, R.D. Van Duesen, C.VanKirk

Burgess 1960, film on file (P-0039)

Record Number: 81-AI

Classification: A-P

REFERENCE

Burgess, H.H. 1960. Roseate Spoonbill at Union Slough. IBL 30:67-68.

PHOTOGRAPHS

R. D. Van Duesen, 8 mm movie, 35 mm slides from movie frames, P-0039

LETTERS

Van [Duesen] to Harold Burgess, 2 May 1961

Thomas H. Kent to Harold H. Burgess, 6 October 1981

Harold H. Burgess to Thomas H. Kent, 11 October 1981

John Guthrie to Harold Burgess, 8 December 1981

Harold H. Burgess to Thomas H. Kent, 8 March 1982

VOTE (1981): 5-II, 2-III

I, If film can be located and viewed, otherwise II. Burgess is a good field person.

III, needs photos to change to I.

II, Three observers, good details of field marks and photographs (if still in existence).

II, if photos can be obtained; otherwise III. But I doubt that the spatulate bill can be seen with unaided eye at 2000'.

II, Check with refuge office and obtain copy of photo for the files. An escapee seems extremely unlikely.

I if film available, II if no film available. Seen by experienced observers who claim to have photographed the bird (movie camera). Observational details given and overall description seems OK.

III, Would be category I if film or single frame exposures are extant. (Are they?)

REVOTE (at meeting, 8 May 1982, after viewing movie and slides made from movie frames): 6-I-P, 1-III.

Roseate Spoonbill

Burgess, H. 1960. Roseate Spoonbill at Union Slough, IBL 30:67-68.

Roseate Spoonbill Observed at Union Slough.—During the afternoon of August 16, 1960, I was conducting Director R. D. Van Duesen, Michigan State University Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, and Charles Van Kirk of Goodrich, Michigan, on a tour of Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge. when we noticed a strange pinkish-white bird arise from Habitat Unit No. 3 marsh. It soared around that marsh and us for an hour. This long, slim bird soared within 100 feet of Van Duesen's cameras and he obtained 15 feet of colored movies of the spoonbill with telephoto lens. Single frame exposures will be made available to the refuge in the near future. The stranger was identified as a spoonbill because of the spatula at the end of its relatively long beak. This spatula could be seen with the refuge's 20-power spotting 'scope, and with 7x50 and 7x35 binoculars whenever our guest was in sight. It could easily be seen with unaided eyes at 2,000 feet.

We identified the stranger as an immature Roseate Spoonbill (yearling) due to its pinkish rather than rose colorations. The Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja* is listed in the 1957 A.O.U. Check-List as breeding on the Gulf Coast and

wandering to . . . northern Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, southern Indiana . . . Pennsylvania. We believe the persistently strong south winds of August pushed this stranger into our area. Last year similar winds brought us a Black Vulture (Iowa Bird Life, XXIX, p. 98).—HAROLD H. BURGESS, Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge. Titonka, Iowa.

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Iowa Bird Life

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

FIELD REPORTS EDITOR
DR. THOMAS H. KENT
211 502 Richards Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

October 6, 1981

Harold H. Burgess
Route 5, Box 1983
Liberty MO 64068

Dear Harold:

Seeing your name in The Bluebird reminded me of your record of the Roseate Spoonbill at Union Slough NWR in Iowa.

Our newly formed Records Committee in Iowa has been hard at work evaluating old records and devising a new "official" Iowa bird list. We are attempting to classify records as those with tangible evidence (specimen, photograph, or recording) and sight records. Your Spoonbill record is the only one for Iowa and we have already evaluated it as an acceptable sight record (beyond reasonable doubt). However, we would very much like to upgrade it to a record substantiated by available photograph. We are attempting to gather as much of the old evidence as possible for a permanent records committee file.

Did you ever see Van Duesen's photographs? Is there any chance that you could help us locate them and obtain copies of a good frame?

Any further recollections or notes on the bird you might have would also be helpful.

Thank you in advance for any help you can give us.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Kent, M. D.
Secretary, Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union



81-AI

(816) 781-8598

**Martha LaFite Thompson
Nature Sanctuary**

ROUTE 5, BOX 183

LIBERTY, MO. 64068
October 11, 1981

Dr. Thomas H. Kent
211 Richards St.
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Dr. Kent:

Yes, I did see R.D. Van Deusen's photographs of the immature Roseate Spoonbill observed at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge on August 16, 1960. I believe that Van Deusen sent me about 15 feet of film. The day was dull so the film showed little color but it was good enough to confirm the spoonbill sighting. That was long ago, and I cannot recall now whether the film was returned to Van Deusen or was retained at the Refuge.

I will inquire, but there have been many changes in personnel and office files at Union Slough NWR so the film may have been discarded. Van Deusen is co-chairman with me of the 8th Trumpeter Swan Conference, MSU Kelloggs Gull Lake Conference Center, Hickory Corners, Michigan September 9-11, 1981. I'll ask him also if he still has some footage of the Roseate Spoonbill.

As Field Report Editor, I would also like to alert you to the possibility of Trumpeter Swans migrating through Iowa from restored flocks in Minnesota, South Dakota, etc. We can no longer assume that all migrant swans are Whistling Swans.

Sincerely,

Harold H. Burgess
Harold H. Burgess

cc. Van Deusen



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
UNION SLOUGH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Rt. 1, Box 32-B, Titonka, Iowa 50480

81-AI

December 8, 1981

Martha Lafite
Thompson Nature Sanctuary
%Harold Burgess
Route 5
Box 183
Liberty, Missouri 64068

Dear Harold:

In reply to your letter concerning photographs or film of an immature roseate spoonbill that you observed August 16, 1960, I'm afraid its bad news. I haven't had any luck in locating photographs or film. It very likely has been misplaced in the shuffle from manager to manager at this station.

All is not lost though - below is information on some out-of-the ordinary sightings observed during 1981 at Union Slough Refuge. Also listed is our estimated waterfowl production for the year as you requested.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SIGHTING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
11/23	3 Wild Turkey	HU 1 (South End) - HABITAT UNIT # 1
9/30 & 4/27	Osprey	HU 3
4/15	Surf Scoter	HU 4
3/21	Gyrfalcon	HU 2

We estimate our total waterfowl production for 1981 at 1,275 birds reaching flight stage which includes 850 wood duck, 75 mallard, 35 Canada geese, 300 blue-winged teal and 15 hooded mergansers. Our first goose brood was sighted on 4/24, mallard brood on 5/20 and wood duck on 5/11.

Hope this information is of value to you.

Sincerely yours,

John Guthrie
Refuge Manager

cc: Dr. Thomas H. Kent
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

ALSO: 4 LONG-EARRED OWLS SIGHTED ON 12/5/81 IN HU 3

**Martha LaFite Thompson
Nature Sanctuary**

ROUTE 5, BOX 183

LIBERTY, MO. 64068

March 8, 1982



Dr. Thomas H Kent
204 Field Report Editor
211 Richards Street
Jawa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Dr Kent;

Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge Manager
John Guthrie located Van Densen's film of
the immature Roseate Spoonbill in its original
package with Van's note. I sent them to me
last week. I'll forward them to you. I believe
it would be OK to keep the film if you have
proper facilities. You should contact Union
Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Rt 1. Box 32-B
Titonka, Iowa 50480 regarding disposition
or return the package to them.

Sincerely
Harold A. Burgess

MEMORANDUM

DATE

5-2-61

W. K. KELLOGG BIRD SANCTUARY

OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

R. 1, AUGUSTA, MICHIGAN

TO

Harold Burgess

SUBJECT

Roseate - Spornbill verification

Hardly if ever have I "boobed" so on photography such a prize. The sprocket holes did not take hold in my 35. and the movie was over-exposed. Using the long lens and the fast "shutter" is miscalculated. Perhaps the best 8-10 feet in a dark room should do the trick. If they are still not convinced we will challenge them to a duel in back of the old wood shed.

(over)

Still hope to spend a few days with you about the 3rd week in July. Will write later about plans.

Hope this arrives in time.

Best wishes

W. K.

81 A-I

