

Glossy Ibis
18 May 1995

Record Number: 95-05
Classification: A-P

Riverton A., Fremont Co., IA
*Kent, *Fuller, *B/L Padelford, *Silcock
IBL 65:70, 66:95; Kent et al. 1995

DOCUMENTATIONS

Thomas H. Kent (18, 19 May), 211 Richards St., Iowa City 52246
Jim Fuller (18, 19 May), 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 42240
Babs/Loren Padelford (18 May), 1405 Little John Rd., Bellevue
NE 68005 [8/14/95]
Ross Silcock (22 May), P.O. Box 300, Tabor 51653

PHOTOGRAPHS

T. H. Kent, 18 May, P-0452

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 65:70
Records Committee: IBL 66:95
Kent, T. H., J. L. Fuller, and A. R. Tetrault. 1995. Glossy
Ibis in Fremont County. Iowa Bird Life 65:87-88.

VOTE: 7 A-P

A-P, Good photographs with excellent detailed written
documentation to back them up.

A-P, Unlike the Dickinson Co. photos these photos are
conclusive.

A-P, Good documentation.

A-P, Photos confirm only a lack of extensive white feathering
(contrast with other photos of WF Ibis 95-06, 95-08). However,
photos confirm written descriptions, and are meaningful at this
date (mid-May).

Compared to a Bonaparte's Gull, this bird was roughly 10-15% smaller. The wings were much more rounded at the tips, and the bird flew with noticeably faster and deeper wingbeats. The upperwings were entirely pale gray, with a narrow white border along the trailing edge of the wing (e.g., white tips to each of the flight feathers). The undersides of the flight feathers were black, except for a narrow white trailing edge. The axillars were paler and grayish in color. The tail was white and square-tipped. The uppertail contrasted with the slightly darker gray mantle and upperwings. The underparts were entirely white. The head was white with a dark gray cap, visible both in flight and when the bird perched on the water. There was an obvious dark spot behind the eye, similar to that of a Bonaparte's Gull. The head seemed small and dove-like, accentuated by the large eye. The legs were bright red. The bill was black, and slightly shorter than that of a Bonaparte's Gull. I aged the bird as an adult, probably in third-basic plumage since birds in second-basic plumage usually show some black on the upper surface of the primaries.

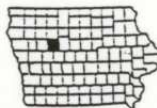
This represents the fourth record of a Little Gull in Iowa. Other records are of a first-winter bird on 27 October 1988 at Saylorville Reservoir (pers. obs.), an adult on 8 October 1989 at Saylorville Reservoir (Dinsmore et al., *Iowa Bird Life* 60:77, 1990), and an adult on 23 April 1992 south of Council Bluffs (*Iowa Bird Life* 63:77, 1993). Records of this species are increasing in the Midwest, with most records in April and from October to December.

4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014

CLARK'S GREBE IN CALHOUN COUNTY

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 25 November 1994, I observed an adult Clark's Grebe at South Twin Lake, Calhoun County. The lake was 99% frozen, and the grebe was resting on the ice at least 200 meters from open water. I studied the bird from 8:25-8:55 a.m. and made the following brief notes. Size was hard to judge since the bird was alone, although it was clearly longer and slimmer than some nearby Mallards. The bird was similar to a Western Grebe with a white throat and breast, black crown, back of the neck, mantle, and upperwings, a long, slender, pointed bill, and very long, swan-like neck. Other features noted included white lores (not gray or black) and white color surrounding the eye, though it appeared to be grayish just above and behind the eye. The flanks were very white mixed with some light gray color and were noticeably paler than the mantle and upperwings. The bill was bright orange, not dull yellow-green as on a Western Grebe. The combination of bill color, white lores, and pale flanks eliminates the possibility of a Western Grebe or a hybrid of the two species.



I took two distant but identifiable photos, the first such evidence of this species in the state. This represents about the fifth record of this species in Iowa. Other records include one on 5 May 1983 at Cone Marsh, Louisa County (*Iowa Bird Life* 53:48, 1983), one on 12-13 October 1985 at Big Creek Lake and nearby Saylorville Reservoir (Dinsmore, *Iowa Bird Life* 56:31, 1986), three on 30 May 1986 at Hendrickson Marsh, Story County (*Iowa Bird Life* 56:82, 1986), and one

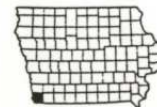
on 13, 19 May 1994 at Trumbull Lake, Clay County (Brewer, *Iowa Bird Life* 65:23, 1995).

4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

GLOSSY IBIS IN FREMONT COUNTY

THOMAS H. KENT, JAMES L. FULLER, AND A. RICHARD TETRAULT

At 1:30 p.m. on 18 May 1995, we were birding the east-west dike at the north end of Riverton Area in Fremont County when we noticed three large dark birds flying from the south. At first we thought that they were cormorants, but soon we saw the long, decurved bills typical of ibises. They flew directly over our heads at about 50 feet. We could not detect any white around the eye. They circled for some time as they flew off to the northwest. We followed them with binoculars and telescope as they seemed to be leaving the area, but they came back and disappeared behind trees on the west side of the West Nishnabotna River.



With the aid of a county map and after 9 miles of driving, we relocated the three ibises feeding along the edge of a shallow pond. We approached the birds so that they were to the northeast and later directly east of us at about 80 yards. We were able to study them with the telescope and later take photos with a 1500 mm mirror lens.

We identified two birds as Glossy Ibis and one as White-faced Ibis. They were large, dark, long-legged birds with long, thick, strongly decurved bills. The two glossies tended to stay together and slightly apart from the white-faced. The glossies were noticeably larger, perhaps 10 to 15 percent. All three birds had chestnut-colored necks and body and iridescent green backs and wings. There was no evidence of retained brownish feathers that might be expected on an immature bird. The white-faced had white feathering all the way around the red eyes. The glossies had thin blue lines (facial skin) above and below the eye. These lines did not extend back of the eye or around the chin. The eyes were dark without any hint of red. The lower line was thinner and neither was half as wide as the white feathering on the white-faced. The white-faced had bright carmine legs; the legs of the glossies were dark gray without any red color at the joints. The bills of the glossies were dull gray throughout; the bill of the white-face was somewhat lighter proximally and appeared pink-tinged in direct sunlight. The birds fed in shallow water and at times rested or preened.

On the 19 May we found two ibises on the north side of J46 west of the town of Riverton on the west side of the West Nishnabotna. One was a white-faced and the other a glossy. They appeared the same as the birds seen the day before except that the white feathering around the eye of the white-faced was slightly less prominent.

We visited with B. J. Rose about 8:30 p.m. on the 18th, and he indicated that there were two glossies and two white-faced present at the pond later in the afternoon of the 18th. Only one of the white-faced was smaller than the glossier. These findings were confirmed in a written description by Babs and Loren Padelford. Ross Silcock documented one of the Glossy Ibises on 22 May.

95-05

Glossy Ibis is an Old World species that invaded the United States in the 1890s and spread as far west as Louisiana and the Mississippi Valley. Usually only adult birds in alternate plumage viewed at close range can be identified, although any dark ibis with a red eye is said to be a white-faced (Pratt 1976). The white feathers around the eye are the easiest field mark to identify White-faced Ibis, but this is the last feature to develop in molt to alternate plumage and may not be present in first-summer birds. The positive field mark for Glossy Ibis is the blue facial skin with a pale border. The dark eye and dark legs are less definitive, since they may be present or be indeterminate on basic-plumaged or immature White-faced Ibises.

Minnesota's first record of Glossy Ibis in the spring of 1991 (Janssen 1992) was a year earlier and not far from Iowa's only other accepted record in Kossuth County on 6-7 May 1992 (Kenne 1994). Glossy Ibis is reported more often than White-faced in Illinois (Bohlen 1989) and Missouri (Robbins and Easterla 1992). Five of the spring records of Glossy Ibis from Missouri are from Holt and Buchanan counties in northwestern Missouri, which is not far from Fremont County in Iowa. There are at least three records of Glossy Ibis from Colorado (Andrews and Righter 1992), and there were reports from Kansas and Wyoming in early May 1992 (Grzybowski 1992, Kingery 1992). Glossy Ibis may be continuing its slow westward expansion, but improved birder identification skills may also be partly responsible for recent records.

LITERATURE CITED

- Andrews, R., and R. Righter. 1992. Colorado Birds. Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver.
- Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The Birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.
- Grzybowski, J. A. 1992. Southern Great Plains Region. *American Birds* 46:443-444.
- Janssen, R. B. 1992. A Glossy Ibis in Minnesota. *The Loon* 64:5-10.
- Kenne, M. 1994. Glossy Ibis in Kossuth County. *Iowa Bird Life* 64:83-84.
- Kingery, H. E. 1992. Mountain West Region. *American Birds* 46:453-456.
- Pratt, H. D. 1976. Field identification of White-faced and Glossy ibises. *Birding* 8:1-5.
- Robbins, M. B., and D. A. Easterla. 1992. Birds of Missouri. University of Missouri Press, Columbia.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246, 6 Longview Knoll, RR 6, Iowa City, IA 52240, and Coralville, IA.

I.O.U. BUSINESS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Otley, 2 April 1995, 10:00-11:15 a.m.

ANN BARKER, PRESIDING; MARY KUHLMAN, SECRETARY

Present: Ann Barker, Beth Brown, Jim Fuller, Ann Johnson, Matt Kenne, Mary Kuhlman, Tim Schantz, Carol Thompson.

Minutes for the 6 November 1995 board meeting were approved as corrected.

The 1994 Financial Report was distributed. It showed an excess of support and revenues over expenses of \$2990.00.

Committee Reports

Records: No report.

Membership: No report. The committee was reminded to recommend new committee members to the board.

Publications: No report.

Library-Historical: No report. Expired terms still need to be filled on this committee.

Big Day: No report.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Carol Thompson reported that the atlas should be ready to go press by the end of summer and the target publishing date is spring of 1996. Photos of ten species are needed. Laura Jackson has been contracted to assemble the accounts this summer. The committee and the board thank Jim Sandrock for the many hours he has spent editing the reports.

Education Booklet Promotion: The committee is making revisions to the booklet and plans to reprint it this fall. Iowa Conservation Education Council has pledged \$500 toward the reprinting and \$2,500 was allowed in the 1994 I.O.U. budget. A check for \$825 from I.C.E.C. for booklet sales of was received in January. The committee has discussed a bulk mailing to all Iowa science teachers to promote booklet sales.

Spring Count: The date for 1995 is Saturday, 13 May. The report for the 1994 count was published in the winter 1995 issue of *Iowa Bird Life*.

Field Trips: Trips for 1995 are Southeast Iowa on April 29, Stephens State Forest on 17-18 June, Green Island and Goose Lake on 8 July, Brushy Creek and Fort Dodge on 27 August and northeast Iowa on 2 December.

Nominating: The following slate of officers was proposed for the 1995 election:

President	Carol Thompson
Vice President	Ann Johnson
Director (three positions)	Ann Barker, Bud Gode, Matt Kenne

Birdline: Jim Fuller submitted his annual report showing that the birdline is receiving more calls than ever. An appeal for donations will be made at the spring meeting. He announced that a bulletin board has been established for I.O.U. on America On Line. It is under Nature Conservancy.

Old Business

Upcoming Meetings: The spring 1995 meeting will be in Ida Grove on 19-21 May. The fall 1995 meeting is planned for Dixon on 8-10 September. Quad City Audubon is the host. Ideas for locations for the spring 1996 meeting were discussed with Vinton and Centerville mentioned. Tentative plans are being made for a joint meeting with South Dakota and Nebraska in Sioux City for the spring of 1997.

Commercial Sales of Checklists: American Birding Association has been contacted about sale of our checklist through their catalog.

Federal Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative: A letter was read from Ann Burns of the Jackson County Conservation Board explaining the initiative and asking for support. It was moved (Fuller, seconded by Johnson) to endorse the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative. Passed. Carol Thompson suggested that an explanation of the program be placed on the agenda of the spring business meeting and that a program be planned for the fall meeting.

Iowa Wildlife Viewing Guide: The first draft of this publication has been completed.

New Business

Dues: It was moved (Fuller, seconded by Brown) that the dues structure remain unchanged 1996. Passed. Dues will remain \$15 for regular members, \$4 for spouse or child under 16, additional children each \$2, and four payments of \$75 for Life Members.

Carol Thompson will provide American Birding Association a list of Iowa birding organizations for their directory.

Announcements

Matt Kenne reported that he is working on an article about personal lists after reading an interesting article in the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union newsletter.

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1974 19+01 NEDNH-16RU 077

Glossy Ibis 95-05 P-0452
Riverton A., Fremont Co., IA
18 May 1995 T. H. Kent

1971 19+01 NEDNH-10RU 077

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

95-05

Species: Glossy Ibis; **Number:** 2 alternate

Location: Riverton A., Fremont Co., IA

Date: 18 and 19 May 1995; **Time:** 1:30 to 1:40 p.m. (est) and 2:20 to 3:25 p.m. on the 18th; 8:40 to 8:45 a.m. on the 19th.

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

Others before/with/after: With Jim Fuller and Dick Tetrault; seen later on the 18th by B. J. Rose, Doug Rose, Babs Padelford, and Loren Padelford; seen on the 22nd by Ross Silcock.

Habitat and circumstances: Controlled water area along Nishnabotna River and flooded fields.

Description of bird: We were on the east-west dike in the upper (north) part of Riverton Area when we saw three large dark birds flying from the south. At first we thought they were cormorants, but soon we saw the long decurved bills typical of ibises. They flew directly over our heads at about 50 feet. I could not detect any white around the eye. They circled for some time as they flew off to the northwest. We followed them with binoculars and scope as they seemed to be leaving the area, but they came back on the west side and disappeared behind trees on the west side of the West Nishnabotna River. We consulted our county map and found that there was a road into that area. When we arrived there we found that the road became minimum maintenance beyond a farmstead and was muddy. There was a shallow open pond on the east side of the road and we spotted the three ibises feeding along the edge. We were able to walk down the road so that the birds were to the northeast and later directly east of us at about 80 yards. We were able to study them with the scope and later take photos with a 1500 mm mirror lens. We identified two birds as Glossy Ibis and one as White-faced Ibis. They were large, dark, long-legged birds with long, thick, strongly decurved bills. The two glossies tended to stay together and slightly apart from the white-faced. The glossies were noticeably larger, perhaps 10 to 15%. All three birds had chestnut colored necks and body and iridescent green back and wings. There was no evidence of retained brownish feathers that might be expected on an immature bird. The white-faced had white feathering all the way around the eye and the eye was red. The glossies had thin blue lines (facial skin) above and below the eye. These lines did not extend back of the eye or around the chin. The lower line was thinner and neither was half as wide as the white feathering on the white-face. The white-faced had bright carmine legs; the legs of the glossies were dark gray without any red color at the joints. The bills of the glossies were dull gray throughout; the bill of the white-face was somewhat lighter proximally and appeared pinkish tinged in direct sunlight. The birds fed in shallow water and at times rested or preened. On the 19th we found two ibises on the north side of J46 west of the town of Riverton on the west side of the West Nishnabotna. One was a white-faced and the other a glossy. They appeared the same as the birds seen the day before except that the white feathering around the eye of the white-faced was slightly less prominent. We visited with B. J. Rose about 8:30 p.m. on the 18th, and he indicated that there were two glossies and two white-faced present at the pond later in the afternoon of the 18th.

Voice: On the 19th I heard a loud squawk from an ibis and Jim Fuller said he says the Glossy Ibis make the noise.

Similar species: An immature White-faced Ibis could lack the red eye, red legs, and white facial feathering of an adult and be confused with a Glossy Ibis. An immature white-faced would lack the blue facial skin and would likely show some brownish feathers. The color differences were clear-cut and observed under identical viewing conditions.

Any one have reservations?: No.

Light: Mostly sunny on both days with sun behind us at a 45 degree angle on the 18th and directly behind us on the 19th. **Distance:** 80 yards both days (est); **Optics:** 10x binocular, 20x scope, 1500 mm lens.

Previous experience: I have seen both species in the south in various plumages and several white-faced in Iowa.

References before/after viewing: We looked at the NG Field Guide after the second viewing.

Time of notes: during the second observation period; **Final typing:** written out at 2 days, typed 1 week.

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

SPECIES: Glossy Ibis (2) and White-faced Ibis (1)

LOCATION: Water area just west of the Riverton Area (Fremont County)

DATE & TIME: 18-19 May, 1995 (2:20-3:30 PM) (8:10-15 AM)

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

OTHER OBSERVERS: With me were Tom Kent and Dick Tetrault. Later observers were Loren and Babs Padelford and B.J. and Doug Rose.

BACKGROUND: The three of us (Kent, Tetrault, Fuller) were standing on a dike in the middle of the Riverton Area, when we noticed three birds flying toward us which at first appeared to be Cormorants. As they got closer, and eventually flew over our heads, they were obviously Ibis. When they flew over I could not see any white on the face of the bird I looked at. They circled and soared for ten minutes, and finally settled down west across the Nishnabotna River. We relocated them in a water area after driving around to the west side of the area.

DESCRIPTION: All three birds appeared to be Ibis in breeding plumage, with similar upper backs and necks that were reddish, and the rest of the body was iridescent greenish-brown. They were about as tall as a small heron or egret (Snowy Egret or Little Blue Heron), and had very long and thick downcurved bills. One of the three birds appeared to be noticeably smaller, estimated 20%, than the other two. Almost always, the smaller bird was separated from the other two.

BIRD 1 (Smaller)(White-faced): The legs were a reddish color. The side of the head showed a distinct red eye, and a very obvious white strip surrounding the eye above, below, and to the back. This white passed over the top of the bill and could be seen when the bird was viewed straight on. The bill was gray and a little lighter than that of the other two birds, and in the right light a red tinge could be seen.

BIRD 2 (Larger)(Glossy): This bird differed from Bird 1 in that the legs were a grayish-green color, not red. The bill was darker, and no reddish could ever be seen on it. There was no white strip around the eye, rather

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Babs & Loren Padelford
1405 Little John Rd.
Bellevue, NE 68005

Documentation for Glossy Ibis

Date Seen: 5-18-95 Time: 7:15-8:00 pm

Location: wetland just west and adjacent to Riverton
Wildlife Management Area, Fremont County

Description of birds: Two Glossy Ibis were foraging in a flooded field with two White-faced Ibis. Two of the three larger birds we determined were Glossy Ibis. They did not have the white feathering around the face. Instead, they had a narrow bright blue line around the bill that did not extend under the chin. The blue line was clearly distinguishable from the heavier white line on the White-faced Ibis. The head, neck and body color was a rich wine-red; wing color was an iridescent green. They had gray bills and gray legs.

One of the White-faced Ibis was approximately 20% smaller than the other three ibis. Presumably, this was a female. The small ibis was in breeding plumage with bright white feathering extending around the face & under the chin. The larger White-faced Ibis did not have a bright white line around the face, but rather had a dullish white line across the forehead between the eyes. The coloration of the bodies of both birds seemed to be identical to the Glossy Ibis. Both of the White-faced Ibis had reddish legs. We could not see that there was any difference in color on the bills of the four ibis. They all appeared to have gray bills.

Behavior: The birds foraged together around the field most of the time we observed them. One time they flew and when they landed they were separated by species. The four birds flew toward Riverton at approximately 8 p.m.

Distance from birds: 150 - 200 yards

Light: late afternoon sun at our back

Equipment used: 25X Bushnell Spacemaster Spotting Scope

Other observer: B.J. Rose

This documentation is being written on 5/18/95 from field notes written at the time of sighting.

Babs Padelford

Loren Padelford

95-05

Iowa Rare Bird Documentation

SPECIES: Glossy Ibis

OBSERVER: Ross Silcock

DATE OF OBSERVATION: May 22, 1995

TIME OF OBSERVATION: About 6.00pm to 6.30 pm

DATE OF REPORT: May 22, 1995

LOCATION: Sec ~~12~~⁷-68-41, Fremont County; e of dirt road across W. Nishnabotna River from Riverton GMA.

HABITAT: Standing water in field; unplanted and weedy.

DISTANCE FROM BIRD: At closest about 175 yards.

LIGHT CONDITIONS: I was looking east with late afternoon sun behind me but mostly overcast; excellent light conditions. Using Balscope SR telescope with 25X eyepiece.

NARRATIVE: I checked the area from a distance and noted 1 bird, obviously a dark ibis. Knowing that 2 Glossies and at least 1 White-faced had been in the area, I went closer so as to identify the bird. I was about 175 yards away when I had the best view. The bird flew to about 250 yards into some taller weeds and was difficult to see well. When in flight it uttered a deep hoarse croak.

IDENTIFICATION: This ibis was typically (for Plegadis ibises) chestnut reddish-brown, with green-glossed wings. Its legs and bill were the same color, a greyish-horn; I could not see any reddish in the legs or especially the "knees". Most significant, and rather obvious, was the strip of bright blue skin around the proximal end of the upper mandible, essentially from eye to eye, but not passing beyond the eyes. There was also a narrower, harder to see piece of blue skin at the base of the lower mandible which did not appear to reach back as far as the eye. There was no white feathering visible on the face. These features identified the bird as an adult Glossy Ibis in alternate plumage. The only feature characteristic of this plumage that I could not see was the reddish "knees". The bright blue facial skin, rather limited in extent, with no white feathering, is diagnostic for Glossy Ibis.

Ross Silcock
PO Box 300
Tabor, IA 51653

