

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? White-Faced Ibis How many? 1

Location? N.E. corner of Cone Marsh, Louisa Co., IA.

Type of Habitat? Marsh, mud flat + shore areas

When? date(s): April 23, 1990 time: 8:30 to 9:40 AM CDT.

Who? your name and address: Peter C. Petersen

Others with you: Jim <sup>(SP)</sup> Sieh, Cal + Bernie Knight

Others before or after you: after Brian Blevins, Ann Barker

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.

Medium sized wading bird; long-decurved bill; back, neck, underparts chestnut; top of head dark; wing coverts + wing glossy green + purple-iridescent. Broad white border all around a reddish-brown facial patch, eye appeared red but range was too great to be sure. Legs uniform reddish-brown. Bill reddish-brown. Not heard. Bird waded + flew around the area with a second ibis - see Glossy doc. The two birds avoided each other most of the time with one flying when the other approached, but then they flew around together for several minutes + were feeding together when I left the area. Obtained one photo showing the white border + reddish bill.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Glossy ibis - which was present for direct comparison, had a narrow whitish facial patch <sup>border</sup> not extending past the eye around a grey-blue patch. Eye seemed dark, but distance great to be positive. Legs were grey with reddish area at joint only. It seemed slightly larger than the White-faced.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? not to my knowledge  
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. Sunny day, sun directly behind observers, est. 120m, closest to 150m. or more. Used Swift scope at 35-50X, 60mm objective.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen this species in La, TX, KS, on 5-6 occasions in large numbers

References and persons consulted before writing description: Checked George during obs + before, also Pratt article on Ibis ID - Birding vol 8 p. 1-5. Looked at Master Guide, Eastern Peterson + Robbins.

How long before field notes made? during obs this form completed? 8 hrs.

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