Glossy Ibis Sighting

On June 11, Mr. Wayne Stanley, Leroy Hovell, Chuck H. Bartenhagen, Philip R. Earnest, Sarah M. Cross, Ramona R. Haight, Ginger A. Malcom, Chris Weyrick, and Bill Knapp were starting a ground search for nests about 9 a.m. The starting point was on the northeast corner of Moist Soil Unit number one, Louisa National Wildlife Refuge, Louisa County, Iowa.

The temperature was in the 80's. The day was clear and the light was good. The sun was at our backs.

When we got out of the vehicles two birds were in the road about 1000 feet from the vehicle.

Mr. Stanley and Mr. Hovell had 7 \times 50 binoculars (Bushnell and Bausch and Lomb). The birds were tentatively identified with these instruments. We then checked them out with 20 \times and 40 \times scopes. All characteristics matched Glossy Ibis including the blue skin at the base of the curved bill.

The two birds appeared nervous. They moved northward along the edge of the water north of the road. We observed the birds for approximately 15 minutes. This gave us time to check Peterson's field guide and recheck the birds. They were in the area until we started the actual nest search.

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