

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Ibis, sp. How many? 1Location? Cedar River at Nashua, s.w. Chickasaw CountyType of habitat? very low river, with sandbars & mudflats, marshy edgeWhen? date(s): Sept. 29, 1984 time: 3:48 to 3:50Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscombothers with you: Steve Dinsmore, Mark Proescholdt

others before or after you: _____

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.

A plain looking, almost cormorant-sized bird (at a distance with no other bird for comparison) flying fast down the river with rapid wingbeats, this bird was almost parallel to us before we saw the gray-blue-purplish iridescence and the long^{thin} down-curved bill, as well as the long legs trailing behind that proclaimed it an ibis.

(Steve, with his scope on it, saw white on the face, but with only binoculars I didn't catch that as it hurried past us.) Its fairly long neck was outstretched as it flew.

Similar species and how eliminated: Cormorant - as it flew toward us, I might have dismissed it as a cormorant except that Steve had yelled "ibis" & I really looked. Only as it drew closer did I see its different flight pattern, & the silhouette showed the down-curved

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No bill, & we saw the iridescence.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: only a few cumulus clouds in an otherwise clear sky, sun behind us, 50-70 feet to center of river, binoculars, 6x30 & 7x35, & Steve had a scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Cormorants many times of course, & ibis in Texas & Florida, ~~white~~ white-faced & white, & glossy

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peterson's & Robbins guides.How long before field notes made? made at once this form completed? October 1, 1984