

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

SPECIES: Ibis (Sp.)

LOCATION: South of south dike at Otter Creek Marsh, Tama County

DATE: 30 April, 1992 (10:15 AM)

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

OTHERS: None

BACKGROUND: I was trying to get a better look at a Sandhill Crane that I had seen at this location from a great distance. As I looked ahead about 75 yards standing in a pool of water was an ibis. Only having binoculars, and with bad light, I tried to sneak up closer to the bird, which took at least a minute. Then as I peered over a dirt bank, the ibis was gone, and I had never seen it fly. However, a Greater Yellowlegs that I had seen near the bird was still there. The ibis was never relocated. Under these circumstances, only a general and brief description can be submitted, and the bird was identified only as Ibis (Sp.)

DESCRIPTION: This long-legged bird appeared to be roughly twice as large as a Greater Yellowlegs which was about 10-15 feet from it. The very large, thick, and downcurved bill was the most apparent feature of the bird. The lighting was not good, but the reddish-brown color which was shiny could be seen. No other pertinent features of the bird could be seen.

SIMILAR SPECIES: No other large marsh bird has such a thick downcurved bill and a reddish-brown color. Long-billed Curlew has a long downcurved bill, but the bill is quite thin, and its coloration is generally brown.

VIEWING CONDITIONS and OPTICS: The day was hot, clear, and hazy, and I was looking toward the southeast, not directly into the sun, but it did affect the view. I was using Swift Audubon 8.5 X 44 binoculars.

REFERENCES and FIELD NOTES: Field notes were written down at the car a half hour later, and this form was typed on 22 May. No field guides were consulted.