

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? White-faced Ibis How many? 2Location? Bays Branch - (Guthrie County)Type of habitat? Lake area with mud flat edgesWhen? date(s): May 6, 1990 time: 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - (very approximate)Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: Carol McMillan, Russ Widner, Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: Eugene and Eloise Armstrong, Steve Dinsmore

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.

We were at the north end of Bays Branch when I spotted this Ibis all by itself. One had been here the weekend before and we were surprised and pleased to see this. Later, as we were scoping the lake edges, we saw another Ibis. They were good-sized waders with long, decurved bills. They were brilliantly colored with a magnificent chestnut and green iridescence. On both of these birds we saw a distinctive white strip about the base of the bill.

Similar species and how eliminated: Glossy Ibis does not have a large, noticeable white strip completely about the base of the bill.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Sunny - sun at our side and behind us. The 1st Ibis was 40-50 yards away and the 2nd one was 100 yards away but flew to 70-80 yards away (estimated).
8x30 Binocs and 22x scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen quite a few white-faced Ibis - (15 in Kansas in April) - and some Glossys.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peterson's Guide to the Birds, Robbins' Birds of N. America, Natl. Geog. field guide
How long before field notes made? while viewing this form completed? May 30, 1990

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240