

WHITE-FACED IBIS

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2 birds, apparently in breeding plumage

23 April 1990

Cone Marsh, Louisa Co.

Initial observation was at approximately 5:40 PM, looking obliquely into sunlight at a distance of about 175 yards with 22X scope. This observation was for about 10 minutes.

Second observation was at 6:40 PM from about 100 yards through Kowa scope for about 5 minutes. Sun was lower and birds had moved slightly so light was better but not perfect.

Following notes dictated into recorder within 3 minutes of second observation:

"Greenish body and neck with iridescent purple on wings. Both birds were feeding actively in shallow water. Both had long decurved bills and one had a very prominent white border at the base of the skin in a semicircle. This same bird appeared to have a reddish cast to the bill and the base of the bill and perhaps a reddish cast to the legs.

The other bird had a much less prominent--in fact, you really could not detect a white border at the base of the facial skin. The facial skin area of this second bird did not look reddish and its legs looked greyish with perhaps a little reddish at the knee joints."

At this range and light, I could not detect the color of the eye on either bird.

Also present during the second observation were Ken Lowder of Iowa City; Ann Barker of Princeton; and John Daniels of Cedar Rapids. There was some brief discussion that the second bird might be a Glossy Ibis.

I have seen (but not studied in detail) White-faced Ibis in the Southwest and have seen from a distance a Glossy Ibis in Florida.

This report typed 4 hours later from recorded field notes.