

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Ibis sp. How many? 1Location? Union Grove SP, Tama Co.Type of habitat? shallow, marshy area on edge of lakeWhen? date(s): 29 Sept, 1985 time: 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM approximatelyWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames IA 50010others with you: Erik Munson, Ames and Mark Proescholdt, Wisconsinothers before or after you: Russel Hays, Waterloo and Hank Zaletel, Colo

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.

The long legs, long neck, ~~an~~ upright posture, and habitat identified the bird as a heron.

The bird was a uniform dark brown in color, and showed some iridescent purple gloss when the sun hit it just right.

The legs were long and dark. The bill was extremely long and definitely decurved and dark colored.

The bird probably stood about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall, as it was a good deal smaller than nearby Great Blue Herons.

Similar species and how eliminated:

All other herons eliminated by uniformly dark brown color and long, decurved bill.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No.

If yes, explain: —

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

light was good. Estimated viewing distance 50-75 yards
I used a BTL 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen both species of ibis before.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NGS Field Guide to Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? — this form completed? 6 hours

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