

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? This sp. How many? 1Location? Union Grove State Park (Tama Co.)Type of habitat? Shallow end of lake with grassy edgesWhen? date(s): Sept. 29, 1985 time: 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: (later) Steve Dinsmore, Eric Munsonothers before or after you: Russell Hays, Hank Zaletel, Jim Fuller, Cal Knight

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.

About 50 yards away from me in the middle of the shallow water at the north end of the lake a very dark-looking bird was feeding. It was wading up to the length of its legs in the water with its head going up and down constantly as it was feeding. Its head was in and under the water quite often. It was a dark bird with dark brownish and greenish sheen at times to its body. It had a long, decurved bill of 6-7 inches. It seemed the relative size of a Little Blue Heron or Snowy Egret. A Great Blue Heron beside it later appeared 2 or 3 times the body size of this hunched-over, feeding bird. I saw it fly a short distance and it showed dark greenish wing tips in contrast to a dark body. Its head and neck appeared

Similar species and how eliminated:

can't think of any similar species.

lighter and scruffy-looking making me think it might be an immature or a winter bird as shown in National Geographic guide.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

It was constantly raining and dark and overcast but I had good, dry viewing out my car window. Distances estimated. 22x Scope. 7x35 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Saw good looks at an Ibis last year on this date and some in Maine.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Natl. Geographic guide, Robbins' Birds of North America.

How long before field notes made? while viewing this form completed? Oct. 2, 1985