

Middlewestern Prairie Region
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Plegadis ^{sp. (NISH)} chihii (White-faced Ibis) 2. Number: Four (4)

3. Location 1 mile North, 2 1/4 miles East of Churdan, Iowa.

4. Date: April 21, 1978 5. Time Bird seen: 10:30 AM to 11 A.M.

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

- When standing upright, approximately 3 feet tall.
- Relatively long decurved bill (easily distinguished)
- Generally solid color patterns, basically darkish colored until correct angle of sunlight showed purplish tint.
- Rapid wingbeat with some gliding

*Distinction from P. falcinellus?
With*

7. Description of voice, if heard: none heard

8. Description of behavior: - feeding in one foot of water, generally kept moving, in water, with bill quite often in water; occasionally left water and were more stationary when on dry land

9. Habitat - general: creek posture, non-timbered, no trees for 1/4 mile
specific: creek bayou (old bed); some vegetation along edges

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:

Great Blue Heron; this Great Blue Heron is the only other bird I've ever seen around here that even comes close to resemblance, and it's not even close.

11. Distance (how measured)? 45-50 steps - stepped it off
- crawled to edge of bayou to watch them

12. Optical equipment: 7x35 binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Partly cloudy sky. Sun was at 11 A.M. position and birds were pretty much west of me.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Animal Ecology 340 (Ornithology) - Lab specimens of glossy ibis studied
Iowa State University

15. Other observers: Younger brother

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

To young to know

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

At the time, I was working on a Field Project for Animal Ecology 340, so happened to have: Robbins' Birds of North America, with me at the time of sighting
Brown, Zim, Singer

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Four Days

Address: R.R. 1

Signature

Date: APRIL 29, 1978

City, State: CHURDAN, Iowa 50050

Seen by Dan Towen, an ornithology student who I quizzed closely about the bird (over) within 3 days.

Jan [Signature]