

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Ibis sp. How many? 1Location? flying down Cedar River, Nashua, Chickasaw CountyType of habitat? river channel with lots of mudflats and marshy areas nearby.When? date(s): Sept. 29, 1984 time: 3:50 PM to 3:52 PMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames IA 50010 (ID)others with you: Beth and Mark Proescholdt, Liscombothers before or after you: —

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.

A medium sized wader - uniform iridescent purplish color.

The bill was quite long and distinctly decurved.

The wings and underwings were also iridescent purple in color.

The bird had the long neck and long legs that are characteristic of herons. When it flew the head and neck were stuck straight out in front and the long legs trailed behind.

The bird flew with quite rapid wingbeats.

When the bird was viewed briefly through a 20x Scope it appeared to have some white around the face, suggesting White-faced Ibis.

Similar species and how eliminated: Separated from other herons by the uniformly dark colored body and the ^{very} dark 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:

Viewing conditions good - sun behind us, no clouds. Estimated viewing distance 50-75'. Used Bausch + Lomb 20x Spotting Scope and Bausch + Lomb 7x35 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen in Florida, Iowa, Wyoming.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

National Geographic Society Field Guide to Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 3 hours

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