

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?White-faced Ibis

How Many?1-in breeding plumage

Location?Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.-Oak Grove Beach

Habitat?landed briefly with gulls and terns on sandy beach

Date?8 Aug 1987

Time?11:32-11:36 a.m.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:The bird suddenly landed amongst the gulls and terns that I was watching on the beach. The typical heron profile and the long, decurved bill easily identified the bird as an ibis. The bird was on the beach for about two minutes and I noted the following marks during that time. Legs were long and dark red in color. The body and neck appeared dark, although there were some greenish and purplish colors when the bird was seen at the right angle. The bird had a narrow, white border around the entire base of the bill. This white border was evident even without the use of optical equipment. The eye looked dark. The bill was long, decurved, and had a reddish tinge to it.

Similar species and how eliminated:The complete white border around the base of the bill and the reddish legs eliminate the similar Glossy Ibis.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were excellent with the sun mostly behind me on a mostly clear day. Estimated viewing distance was about 30 yards. I used Nikon 8x23 binoculars and a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen several White-faced Ibis in Iowa and I have seen numerous Glossy Ibis in Massachusetts and other eastern states.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none

How long before this form was completed?20 hours