

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Glossy Ibis How many? 1

Location? NE corner of Cone Marsh, Louisa Co., Ia.

Type of Habitat? Marsh & Mud Flat, & bare areas.

When? date(s): April 23, 1990 time: 8:30 AM to 9:40 AM CDT

Who? your name and address: Peter C. Petersen

Others with you: Jim Sieh, Cal + Bernie Knight

Others before or after you: ^{after} Brian Blevins, Ann Barber

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Medium sized wading bird; long-decurved bill; back, neck, underparts chestnut; wing coverts + wings glossy green + purple. Very narrow whitish border to grey-blue facial patch, not extending past eye, eye looked dark, bill tanish olive brown, legs grey except reddish brown at knee joint. Not heard. Wading + flying in + around marshy area + mud flat in company of a second ibis - see Wh-Faced doc. At times the two birds avoided each other but they once flew together for several minutes + were feeding close together when I left the area.

Similar species; how eliminated:

White-Faced Ibis, which was present for direct comparison, had a wide white facial border around a reddish-brown facial patch, eye seemed red but distance was a bit far to be positive, legs were uniformly reddish brown, bill darker + more reddish + bird seemed a bit smaller.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? not to my knowledge
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. Sunny day, sun directly behind observers, est. 120m. closest point, 150m. mostly. Used Swiss scope at 35-50X, 60mm. objective.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen this species in Romania, Australia, Kenya, S. & E. U.S. on many occasions.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Checked Geo guide during obs. + before, also Pratt article on Ibis ID - Birding vol. 8, p. 1-5. Looked at Master Guide, Eastern Peterson + Robbins.

How long before field notes made? during this form completed? plus.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).