

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Ibis sp. How many? 1Location? Nashua, Chickasaw County, Cedar RiverType of habitat? over main river channel - sandbars, some marshy areasWhen? date(s): Sept. 29, 1984 time: 3:48 to 3:50 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Beth Proescholdt, Steve Dinsmoreothers before or after you: none

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.

Steve spotted the bird upriver from us, saw a brief sideview of the bird, and yelled "ibis" to us. The bird then flew straight down the river toward us flapping its wings fast and hard. The bird had a long outstretched neck with long legs trailing behind. The bird flew right in front of us about 50-75 feet away. As it got closer to us, I saw its long, decurved bill. The bird was dark purplish brown and showed an iridescence a couple of times under its wings as it passed us. Steve viewed the bird in his scope and thought the bird had the markings of a white-faced Ibis, but with binoculars I did not see any white around its bill at all.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Double-crested cormorant. From a distance the ibis had a similar body shape but long decurved bill and dark purplish brown color. Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No <sup>determined</sup> an ibis.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
Sunny and clear, sun behind us, Distance estimated, 7x35 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Saw good looks at three Glossy Ibis standing and flying this summer in Maine.  
 References and persons consulted before writing description: Robbins' Birds of North America, Petersen's Guide to the Birds, Natl. Geographic's Birds of North America.  
 How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? Oct. 6, 1984

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