

Wood Stork
9 Sep 1931
Mondamin, Harrison Co., IA
Wallace B. Grange
Grange 1932

Record Number: 81-AH
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Grange, W.B. 1932. A large flock of Wood Ibises in Harrison County, Iowa. Wilson Bull. 44:43.

DuMont 1933

VOTE (1981): 3-III, 1-IV, 3-VI

III, Season right and a good observer. I still have nagging question -- Were they White Pelicans?

VI, No knowledge of observer competence. Description does not eliminate much more likely White Pelicans.

III, No details of field marks, but observer had first hand previous encounter with the species.

VI, Despite probable competence of observer, no details given rule out other more probable species such as White Pelican. (All details given on appearance, behavior consistent with this species).

IV, Field marks not mentioned, but obs. (he has good credentials) familiar with species within normal range.

VI, Single observer record. No tangible evidence. Description of flying birds does not distinguish them from White Pelicans. The number seen (200) seems extraordinary and casts an incredibility over the whole observation. The observer claimed to be familiar with the bird.

III, Seems acceptable, based on flight behavior described and prior experience with species in Florida.

Grange, W. B. 1932. A large flock of Wood Ibises in Harrison County Iowa.
Wilson Bull 44:43.

A Large Flock of Wood Ibises in Harrison County, Iowa.—On the morning of September 8, 1931, while I was approaching the village of Mondamin, Harrison County, Iowa, from the south, I saw a flock of at least two hundred Wood Ibises (*Mycteria americana*), which had apparently just taken flight from along the Missouri River. The exact site where the birds were first seen was one-half mile from the village. They rose in two groups, which later joined to form the one large flock. As they wheeled about in great circles, rising apparently to gain the advantage of a strong wind, they made a spectacular and beautiful display, with brilliant white breasts flashing light in unison as the birds turned again and again. I had a splendid opportunity to observe them through glasses, and at reasonable range, and even tried to secure a photograph by getting into a position in advance of the flock, but in so doing the birds were lost from sight. They were last seen wheeling about very high in the air and traveling northeastward, about five miles northeast of Mondamin. I was surprised to encounter these birds, with which I have been familiar in Florida, under the circumstances mentioned. I believe this is the first Iowa record of the species.—WALLACE B. GRANGE, U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

Mycteria americana Linnaeus. Wood Ibis

Straggler. The only observation made in Iowa was recorded by Wallace B. Grange (Wilson Bull., XLIV, p. 43) as follows: "On the morning of September 8, 1931, while I was approaching the village of Mondamin, Harrison County, Iowa, from the south, I saw a flock of at least two hundred Wood Ibises (*Mycteria americana*), which had apparently just taken flight from along the Missouri River. The exact site where the birds were first seen was one-half mile from the village. They rose in two large groups, which later joined to form one large flock. . . . I had a splendid opportunity to observe them through glasses, and at reasonable range. . . . I was surprised to encounter these birds, with which I have been familiar in Florida, under the circumstances mentioned. I believe this is the first Iowa record." One was reported (Swenk, Letter of Information) near Omaha in 1925, and it has also occurred in Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

DuMont 1937
p 26