

Wood Stork  
11 Oct 1985  
4 miles south of Washta, Cherokee Co., IA  
Marion M. Brewer  
IBL 63:69

Record Number: 92-A  
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Marion M. Brewer, RR 2, Box 25, Cherokee, IA 51012 (6/30/93)

REFERENCE

Records Committee: IBL 63:69

VOTE: 6 NA, 1 A-D

NA, insufficient data supplied.

NA, The field marks noted are consistent with Wood Stork. However, as this would be only the second record from Iowa, I believe more detail, such as leg and bill color, bill size and shape, and general size/configuration of the bird, would be needed to be acceptable. I am also hesitant to accept records submitted after a long period without notes made at the time of the sighting.

NA, According to Iowa Birds, Midwest records of this extremely rare vagrant occur from May to Oct., with most in August and September. The October date of this sighting adds some credibility to this report. Also adding credibility is the description of the black primaries and secondaries extending from wingtip to belly on an otherwise white bird. This is very possibly a correct identification. Unfortunately, I am concerned about the 7 year interval between the observation and the documentation, as well as the possible influence of field guides on the observer's recollections of 7 years ago. In view of the rarity of the species in Iowa and the upper Midwest (this would be only a second Iowa record), and in light of the absence of additional supporting details of this observation, I am taking a conservative N.A. position.

NA, The black primaries and secondaries to the belly is diagnostic, but without more supporting info I must vote NA on this second Iowa record for Wood Stork. I also note that Great Blue Heron has black secondaries and primaries with light gray wing coverts.

NA, Description fits Am. White Pelican except, perhaps, for out stretched head. Wood Stork has dark head. Was this a flyover? How well was it seen? Lack of detail suggests brief observation.

A-D, Nothing was mentioned in the documentation about the head or bill shape or color. Species not mentioned as being possible were American White Pelican (which keeps its head back in flight but also has black in secondaries). I know of no other species with all black primaries and secondaries that flies with both head and feet extended. This is diagnostic for Wood Stork.

NA, This is an intriguing documentation, and it's nice that the observer sent this in to be part of the state birding record. However, more details are needed to fully evaluate this record. An October sighting could fit a post-breeding Wood Stork according to Iowa Birds (Dinsmore, et al.) which lists records in the Midwest from May to October and mentions recent records from

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union  
Wood Stork

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South Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ontario. A White Pelican doesn't have black secondaries to the belly of the bird, but it could be a likely candidate, too.

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa 92-A

What species? Wood Stork How many? 1Location? 4 miles S of WashtaType of habitat? River bottomWhen? date(s): 10-11-1985 time: mid afternoonWho? your name and address: Marion M. Brewer RR 2 Box 25 Cherokee, Ia. 51012

others with you: \_\_\_\_\_

others 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 large white bird with out stretched head & feet. The black primarys & secondary extended from wing tip to the belly of the bird.

Similar species and how eliminated: snow goose. black secondarys

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

8X42 binoculars at about 100 yardsPrevious experience with species and similar ones: none

References and persons consulted before writing description:

peterson, Golden, National Geographic  
 How long before field notes made? none this form completed? 10- 23-92

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