

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1995-024

Name of bird form: Anhinga

Committee member name: fraker

Date of review: 5/30/18

Circulation number: 2nd

Vote: U-I

Comments: [required as this is a 2nd circulation] Would love to know what cosmic law is in effect that prevents vagrant Anhingas from ever being photographed...

I share some of the aforementioned concerns with the distance, the brevity of the sighting, TWO birds, and the date being 23 years ago, when they were considered vagrant anywhere in Illinois (if I'm not mistaken?).

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1995-024

Name of bird form: Anhinga

Committee member name: Walter Marcisz

Date of review: 6-23-18

Circulation number: 2nd

Vote: A-S (1)

Comments: [required as this is a 2nd circulation]

Straightforward, detailed documentation. I vote to accept.

I believe that the concerns expressed by Dave Johnson in his letter of 6 April 1998 have been sufficiently addressed in Paul Clyne's response letter dated 7 April 1998.

It is interesting to me that a separate Anhinga sighting we are voting on during the current circulation (2017-066, date of observation 15 April 2017) was also a bird seen in flight that was observed over a period of 2 minutes, but was not seen flapping during that 2 minute time period. I quote from Keith McMullen's written documentation of the 4-15-17 record:

"Immediately knew it was an ANHINGA and not a Cormorant as it never flapped and simply soared and circled for the 2, minute-long observations I was given."

So, we are voting on not one, but two non-flapping Anhinga records during this circulation.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1995-024

Name of bird form: Anhinga

Committee member name: McMullen

Date of review: 6-18-18

Circulation number: 2nd

Vote: U-I

Comments: [required as this is a 2nd circulation]

I would agree with Dave Bohlen's assessment of this 20+ year old record.....High flying bird seen briefly. Difficult to gather enough detail to eliminate Cormorant which would be expected.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1995-024

Name of bird form: Anhinga

Committee member name: Adam Sell

Date of review: 6/2/18

Circulation number: 2nd

Vote: U-I

Comments: Detail in regards to tail length not included. Squared off tail seems inconsistent with the more flared tail shape I associate with Anhinga. Wing shape can be fooling, and cormorants can easily glide that distance. The description of the bill is spot-on for Anhinga, but the rest of the description is lacking in an ability to accurately rule out Double-crested or even Neotropic Cormorant.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1995-024

Name of bird form: Anhinga

Committee member name: Douglas Stotz

Date of review: 20 June 2018

Circulation number: 2nd

Vote: U-I

Comments: [required as this is a 2nd circulation]

I have become progressively more leery of Anhinga in flight records. These may very well have been Anhingas, but distance to the birds, brevity of observation and the fact that there were really no plumage characteristics mentioned lead me to vote against this record.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1995-024

Name of bird form: Anhinga

Committee member name: Paul Sweet

Date of review: 5/30/18

Circulation number: 2nd

Vote: A-S(1)

Comments: [required as this is a 2nd circulation]

The description seems to rule out other possibilities, with the longer, squared tail as a key point. Neotropics (extremely rare back then, as I recall, just like Anhinga) have longer tails but they usually appear rounded. They also rarely have the extensively pale foreparts mentioned here. On iNaturalist.org I was able to find several shots of Anhinga showing a slight contrast between wing coverts and secondaries as mentioned in the documentation. Similarly, the flight pattern mentioned by David Johnson doesn't fit my experience of watching migrating Anhingas flying past Corpus Christi – they would routinely use thermals without so much as a flap. I do suspect that our recent experience with the expansion of Anhingas into the state makes this record seem more plausible than it would have been in the late 1990's.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1995-024

Name of bird form: Anhinga

Committee member name: Geoffrey A. Williamson

Date of review: 21 May 1998

Circulation number: 2nd

Vote: U-I

Comments: [required as this is a 2nd circulation]

At the distance of this observation, and with the observation period so short, I am unconvinced that a definitive view could be obtained. Especially at that height, a convincing case that these weren't the much more likely cormorants is hard to make.