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A

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPE BIRD SIGHTING  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Glossy Ibis (Vernacular name) | Plegadis falcinellus (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): July 4, 1990 Time Bird Seen: 11:15 AM to 12:30 PM

Locality: Orlando Reservoir near Walsenburg Huerfano County Colorado  
First latilong record - latilong 26, Trinidad  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Questar Scope - 85x lens

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Adult

Light conditions: Excellent

Distance from bird, and how measured: 50 Yards - Estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior: This bird was with 3 adult + 2 immature white-faced ibis. All birds remained fairly still as we slowly approached them. Once accustomed to us the birds began to feed probing the mud in shallow water near lake shore.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: This bird was observed at Orlando Reservoir about 10 miles north of Walsenburg. Orlando is a shallow prairie lake just east of I-25 (Exit 60) & has few trees nearby. It is surrounded by heavily grazed short-grass prairie.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Bob Dickson 55 Villa Drive Pueblo, CO 81001

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

The bright but dark rufous head, neck, & back of this bird, its iridescent greenish & purple wings, identified it as an adult. This fact is important since young Glossy & White-faced Ibis may not be distinguishable. The Glossy we saw had two narrow but distinct white lines—one above & below each eye. These lines did not join behind the eye. A pale bluish color was observed at the base of the upper white eyeliner. The eye of this bird was dark brown with no trace of red. Its bill was dark gray, long, & decurved. Legs were solid dark olive brown with no trace of red. No red was seen at "knee joints". This bird stood about 3 feet tall. We felt the dark brown eye, white & blue facial pattern; solid dark legs combined on an adult bird was conclusive evidence to identify it as a Glossy Ibis. We also had nearby White-faced Ibis in varying ages & plumages to compare. This bird

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

This bird was silent.

List similar species and how you eliminated them: Adult <sup>white</sup> W-F Ibis show thick face stripes joining behind the eye. Young white faced Ibis may lack a prominent white face & exhibit a dark eye & dark legs rendering them indistinguishable from young Glossy Ibis. But they also lack the bright rufous head, neck, & back of adults. Young white-faced & Glossy Ibis exhibit a much duller brown head & neck than ~~the~~ the bird we saw. They would also lack the thin but distinct white facial stripes this bird had. White-faced Ibis would also lack blue facial coloration. All white-faced Ibis we saw with the Glossy showed red eyes + red knee joints & were about same size as Glossy Ibis.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen many white-faced Ibis in Colorado, Kansas, & Utah.

I've seen Glossy Ibis in Florida several times.

This report was written from notes made during  after  observation; from memory .

NAME (print): David Silverman

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Signature: David Silverman

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205