

## COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

Accepted 7-0

GLOSSY IBIS  
Plegadis falcinellus

Location: Nee Noshe Reservoir; Kiowa County; Eads, Colorado

Date: May 20, 1996

This bird was found by someone else and was on the Colorado Bird Alert prior to our locating it.

Background:

I was birding with Brandon Percival. We located the Glossy Ibis about mid-morning on the shore on Nee Noshe Reservoir--on mud flats. It was wading with a flock of 4 White-faced Ibises. We observed the bird with the flock for about 15 minutes. The sky was overcast; we watched it with my scope (Kowa 20-60x) from about 50-150 yards.

Description:

This was a breeding-plumaged adult. It was adjacent to the four White-faced Ibises and fed actively with them. The Glossy Ibis was slightly taller, larger-bodied and with thicker legs than the White-faced Ibises. In general it was similar in appearance to the White-faced Ibis: about 24" long; overall glossy chestnut-brown with greenish highlights; long reddish wader legs; a long neck; a long distinctly down-curved bill. This bird differed from the White-faced Ibis (WFI) in: 1) being larger, taller and thicker-legged; 2) having greenish-gray legs with reddish joints (not reddish-brown like WFI); 3) having a narrow thin bluish-white border to the facial skin, in front of and below the eye only (not broad, white and feathered, including the area behind the eye as in WFI); 4) having deep blue facial skin (not reddish-brown as in WFI); and 5) having a brown eye (not red as in WFI).

Similar Species:

The White-faced Ibis is the very similar. For main differences, see the Description above.

Experience with Species:

I have seen Glossy Ibises in Florida on several occasions. I have previous experience with both ibises' in Colorado and other states.

This report is prepared from notes made during observation.

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