

ACCEPTED 7-0

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

GLOSSY IBIS
Plegadis falcinellus

Location: 4.7 miles west of Las Animas on Hwy 194; Las Animas; County, Colorado

Date: April 24, 1997

Background:

I was birding with Brandon Percival. I found the Glossy Ibis at 9:40 a.m. in a marshy, flooded field next to the road. It was wading with a flock of about 150 White-faced Ibises. We observed the bird with the flock for about 15 minutes. The sky was lightly overcast; we watched it with my scope (Kowa 20-60x) from about 75 yards; and with our binoculars.

Description:

This was a breeding-plumaged adult but the soft parts (facial skin, legs, bill) were not very brightly colored yet. It was actively feeding with about 150 White-faced Ibises and afforded direct, side-by-side comparisons. The Glossy Ibis was about the same size as the White-faced Ibises. It was also generally similar in appearance to a White-faced Ibis. It was about 2 feet long (including the long down-curved bill). Overall it was a glossy chestnut-brown with greenish highlights; long dark and reddish legs; a long neck; a long, very down-curved bill. This bird differed from the White-faced Ibis (WFI) in: 1) having dull greenish-brown legs with pinkish joints (not overall reddish-brown legs like WFI); 2) having a narrow thin bluish (top) and white (bottom) borders to the facial skin (this border was, clean, neat and only about 2 mm in width; like a whitish "pencil line"), in front of and below the eye only (not broad, white and feathered, including the area behind the eye as in WFI); 3) having gray facial skin that was blue at the top (not reddish-brown as in WFI); and 4) having a brown eye (not red as in WFI); and 5) feathering around the facial skin was dark (not whitish as in the 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 immediately after observation.

Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001

