

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

1998-12

ACCEPTED 7-0

GLOSSY IBIS

Plegadis falcinellus

Location: un-named lake just north of F Rd. between 24 and 25 Rds. east of Lake Meredith; Crowley County; Sugar City, Colorado

Date: April 11-19, 1998

This bird was also seen by Brandon Percival, Gene Rutherford, B.B. Hahn, Bob Dickson and Sherry Chapman

Background:

I was birding with Brandon Percival on the 11th. We located the Glossy Ibis about mid-morning on the flooded, weedy edge of this small prairie reservoir. It was wading with a flock of 6 White-faced Ibises. On the 11th I observed the bird with the flock for about 5 seconds in my scope before they took flight. The sky was sunny. On the 19th five of us observed the bird for about 15 minutes at 3:15 p.m. The sky had high thin clouds; the sun was from the side; distance was about 50-150 yards. We observed the bird with scopes (Kowa 20-60x; Questar). The bird waded with 2 White-faced Ibises for direct comparison.

Description:

This was a breeding plumaged adult bird. It was adjacent to the two White-faced Ibises and fed actively with them. In fact, the problem was waiting for the bird to raise its head momentarily to give good views of the face and bill. The Glossy Ibis was about the same size as the White-faced Ibises but in flight it looked a little bigger. In general appearance it was similar to the White-faced Ibis: about 24" long; overall very dark - shiny chestnut-brown with greenish highlights; long reddish wader legs; a long neck; and a very long down-curved bill. This bird differed from the White-faced Ibis (WFI) in: 1) being slightly larger in flight; 2) having greenish-gray legs with reddish joints, base and feet (not reddish-brown like WFI); 3) having a narrow thin whitish 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 blue facial skin that was brighter at the edges (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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