

**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
SIGHT RECORD FORM**
*rec'd 7-15-98 ACCEPTED 7-0*

RESULTS: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIES: Glossy Ibis  
(COMMON NAME)Plegadis falcinellus  
(SCIENTIFIC NAME)

DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: at least May 4 &amp; 5, 1998 DATE OF THIS OBSERVATION: May 4 &amp; 5, 1998

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 2 on 5/4, 1 on 5/5 SEX: ? PLUMAGE: adult breeding

EXACT LOCATION: Lower Queens Reservoir (west side)

COUNTY: Kiowa NEAREST TOWN: May Valley (Prowers Co.) ELEVATION:

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: approx. 20 min. each day TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 4:40 - 5:00 pm 5/4  
1:35 - 2:00 pm 5/5

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW AND INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THE BIRD(S):

Duane Nelson (5/4 &amp; 5; he had found the birds prior to 5/4), Dave Leatherman (5/5)

LIGHT CONDITIONS [QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION]:

Weather was clear with bright sunlight both days; sun was low and behind observer on 5/4 giving excellent light conditions.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

Bushnell 10x binoculars; Bushnell Spacemaster scope (20-45x)

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): approx. 200 ft.

WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? Don't know IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHS?  
WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS?

GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

Irrigation reservoir shoreline.

BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN  
SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):The 2 Glossy Ibises were observed feeding in shallow water along the shoreline in the company of approx. 30 White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*), and flying short distances between feeding spots. None of the observed behavior was useful in differentiating the Glossy Ibises from the White-faced Ibises.DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE BIRD(S) [INCLUDE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE; PLUMAGE  
DETAILS INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS, AND TAIL; AND COLOR  
AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION.  
GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S)].

These were 2 medium-sized, long-legged, dark-colored waders about the size of a Snowy Egret, but distinctly different from herons in shape and color, resembling only the nearby White-faced Ibis. They had long down-curved brownish bills, and the overall color of their body, including the head and neck, was a rich, dark chestnut. In the direct sunlight, the body feathers appeared iridescent with a variety of colors from green to purple (always reminds me of an oil slick on water). The long legs were greenish with red "knees". The most distinctive differences between these 2 birds and the White-faced Ibis were on the face. The bare facial skin appeared to be dark gray with bright blue borders (this blue color really stood out in the afternoon light). This blue border created the impression of 2 narrow lines - one from the top of the eye to the top of the bill and the other from the bottom of the eye to the base of the lower mandible. The blue border did not extend around behind the eye. By contrast, the nearby White-faced Ibises that were in breeding plumage had conspicuous white feathering above and below the bare reddish facial skin, and this feathering continued around behind the eye forming a continuous white border rather

than 2 blue lines seen on the Glossy Ibises. The eyes of the Glossy Ibises were dark brown, whereas the White-faced Ibises had red eyes.

**SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW THEY WERE ELIMINATED:**

The only similar species is White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) to which the Glossy Ibis is superficially very similar. Both species are dark, long-legged wading birds with long down-curved bills, and are approximately the same size. However, the narrow bright blue edges of the dark facial skin that form lines between the eye and upper and lower edges of the bill, but do not go around behind the eye are unique to the Glossy Ibis. Also the brown eye color and the greenish legs with red "knees" are characteristic of Glossy Ibis in breeding plumage. White-faced Ibis in breeding plumage has a conspicuous white feather border above and below reddish facial skin that extends around behind the eye (which is red), and the legs are usually red.

**PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES:**

Glossy Ibis: I have identified this species on 2 previous occasions in CO (1995 & 1996; each of a single bird in the company of White-faced Ibis). I have also seen Glossy Ibis in FL, NY, and NC.

White-faced Ibis: I have seen this species annually in CO from 1979, often in large numbers; I have also seen them in AZ, CA, ID, NM, and TX.

**BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THESE INFLUENCED IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):**

NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America, 2nd ed. (pp 56-57) - after observation

Advanced Birding. Kenn Kaufman. Houghton Mifflin, 1990 (pp 39-42) - after observation

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING  X  OR AFTER  X  OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF THIS WRITTEN REPORT: July 15, 1998

REPORTING OBSERVER: Dick Schottler  
25 S. Indiana Place  
Golden, CO 80401

SIGNATURE:

