

CFO-RC FILE#: _____
RESULTS: ACCEPT 7-0**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM**Species: Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*

Rec'd 5/99 wpl

Date of observation: April 26, 1999

Number of birds seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Breeding

Exact location: Observed at Cherry Creek State Park in meadow west of main park road and north of Twelve Mile Picnic Area turnoff

County: Arapahoe Nearest town: Aurora Elevation: 5350 ft.

Length of observation: Two occasions, fifteen minutes each Times of observation: 1230-1245 and 1515-1530

Other observer who saw the bird with you: Lea Ann Brown, 1515-1530 only

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Steve Stachowiak, Warren Finch, Joey Kellner, April 27 am
Both Finch and Kellner noted two Glossy Ibis

Light Conditions: 1230-1245: Bright overcast, somewhat hazy. Sun just beyond overhead, somewhat to the left (south) of the observer and mostly obscured. Would characterize light as moderately backlit.

1515-1530: Overcast. Actual sun position not noted. The light, however, was flatter, more even and less diffused than at 1230. This resulted in a "richer" and "sharper" view.

Optical equipment used: Swift 8.5x44 Audubon binocular and Bushnell 60mm Spacemaster scope with 22x wide angle eyepiece

Distance from bird: 120 ft. initially, closing to about 80 ft. each occasion

Photograph: No

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird occurred: Generally open meadow. Cherry Creek coming in from the south was flooding across the park road at this time creating many small temporary streams crisscrossing the meadow in a northerly direction.

Describe the bird's behavior: The subject bird was mixed in with a flock of White-faced Ibis. Its behavior was like the White-faced, probing the wet meadow at a leisurely pace alternately in the small streams, along the banks and in the grassy meadow.

Describe the bird in detail: On seeing the flock of about 110 individuals, I made the assumption that all were White-faced Ibis (the only North American species with which, I believe, Glossy Ibis can be confused). On casual observation through binoculars I found two that were *not definitively* White-faced. That is to say that those two did not exhibit the pinkish-white fringe across the forehead around and behind the eye and down the cheek that is characteristic of breeding White-faced. Taking out my scope, I relocated one of the individuals and noted that it exhibited a narrow baby blue strip across the forehead and a thin baby blue zigzag down the cheek to the chin, but clearly not continuing to behind the eye. The baby blue strip was less than half as wide as the pinkish-white fringe encircling the breeding White-faced and again, it did not fully encircle the eye nor did it join the lower strip as in the White-faced. Moving in from about 120 ft. to maybe 80 ft. I was able to distinguish reddish knee joints contrasting with brownish-gray legs on the subject bird. White-faced Ibis in the same scope view showed reddish legs and joints with no noticeable color contrast. The decurved bill of the subject seemed duller brownish-gray than the slightly reddish cast on the bills of White-faced nearby. The individual seemed marginally larger than the than the average of

the flock. I was satisfied that the bird was a Glossy Ibis and I returned to my workplace to call Lea Ann so she could confirm the sighting.

Lea Ann was able to join me at about 1500 and at 1515 we were able to find an ibis showing all the above Glossy Ibis characteristics. The light was slightly better and Lea Ann and I were able additionally to see that the subject individual's eye appeared dark versus the observed darkish red of the White-faced nearby. We were unable to say with certainty that the eye was brown, however. We were also unable to tell for sure whether the area behind the bill was dark blue or merely dark. Both satisfied that we had observed a Glossy Ibis I returned to work and informed the RBA while Lea Ann returned home to post the sighting on Cobirds.

Describe bird's call or song: Not noted

Describe similar species and how you eliminated them: The elimination of White-face Ibis is inherent in the above description where differences between this species and Glossy Ibis are noted as observed.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: I've seen Glossy Ibis three different times in Florida and Texas. I've seen white-faced Ibis 81 times in several states, but principally in Colorado and mostly in spring migration.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): I was influenced primarily by my memory of the field mark comparisons made by Kaufman in *Advanced Birding*. I was carrying the *NGS Guide to the Birds of North America* and looked at it to validate my memory after observing the bird the first time.

This report was made later from memory: April 27, 1999

Date of written report: April 27, 1999

Reporting observer: Bob Brown, 730 E. Redwood Ct., Highlands Ranch, CO 80126, 303-791-6204

Signature:

