

Rec'd
8/19/99
WPF

1999 - 16

CFO-RC-FILE#: _____

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Results: ACCEPT 7-0

Species:	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
	<hr/> (Common Name)	<hr/> (Scientific Name)

Date(s) of occurrence: May 12, 1999

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: Unknown

Plumage: Adult

Exact location: In temporary puddle in pasture N of CR32, 0.5 mi W of Interstate 25.

Elevation: Approx. 4900 feet

County: Larimer

Nearest town: Between Windsor, Fort Collins and Loveland, CO

Length of Observation: 20 min.

Time(s) of Observation: 2:40-3:00 pm

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Charles and Mary Brown, ornithologists from the University of Tulsa (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Joe Fontaine and Dave Ely, 5/13/99

Light conditions [quality; direction relative to bird(s) position]:
Excellent light (sunny sky); mid-afternoon sun behind observers.

Optical equipment used: Swift Panther telescope, 15-45x zoom.

Distance from bird (estimated unless otherwise noted):
50 m

Was the bird photographed? No

If so, have you submitted photos? No.

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:
Temporarily flooded field.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):

Foraging for food in submerged mud. In the company of about 80 White-faced Ibis.

Describe the bird in detail: This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings, and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the (bird(s)). Describe other details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, etc. that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted: you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches, or copy of field notes)

(see sketch) Size and shape of White-faced Ibis; dark, purplish body with long decurved bill. Distinguished from White-faced Ibis by dark eye, gray legs with pink knees, gray facial skin bordered narrowly above and below by topaz blue. Blue borders did not connect behind eye and did not extend to throat (chin).

Describe the bird's song and calls if heard: None

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

(see description above) Breeding-plumage White-faced Ibis has pink facial skin (not dark gray), bordered in white (not blue) that extends continuously from bill over face and around eye below face to chin. This border is discontinuous in Glossy Ibis and less extensive. Legs of White-faced Ibis are pinkish red (not gray). Immature White-faced Ibis may have dull pink face that appears gray from a distance and lacks white border. Presence of blue border of face definitively rules out any immature ibis.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

During observation, we consulted National Geographic Society's Birds of North America field guide to be sure we observed the important field marks.

This report was made from notes taken at the time of the observation.

Reporting observer: Nicholas Komar

Signature: Nicholas Komar Date: 7/5/99

Address:

1507 Wildwood Court

Fort Collins CO 80522

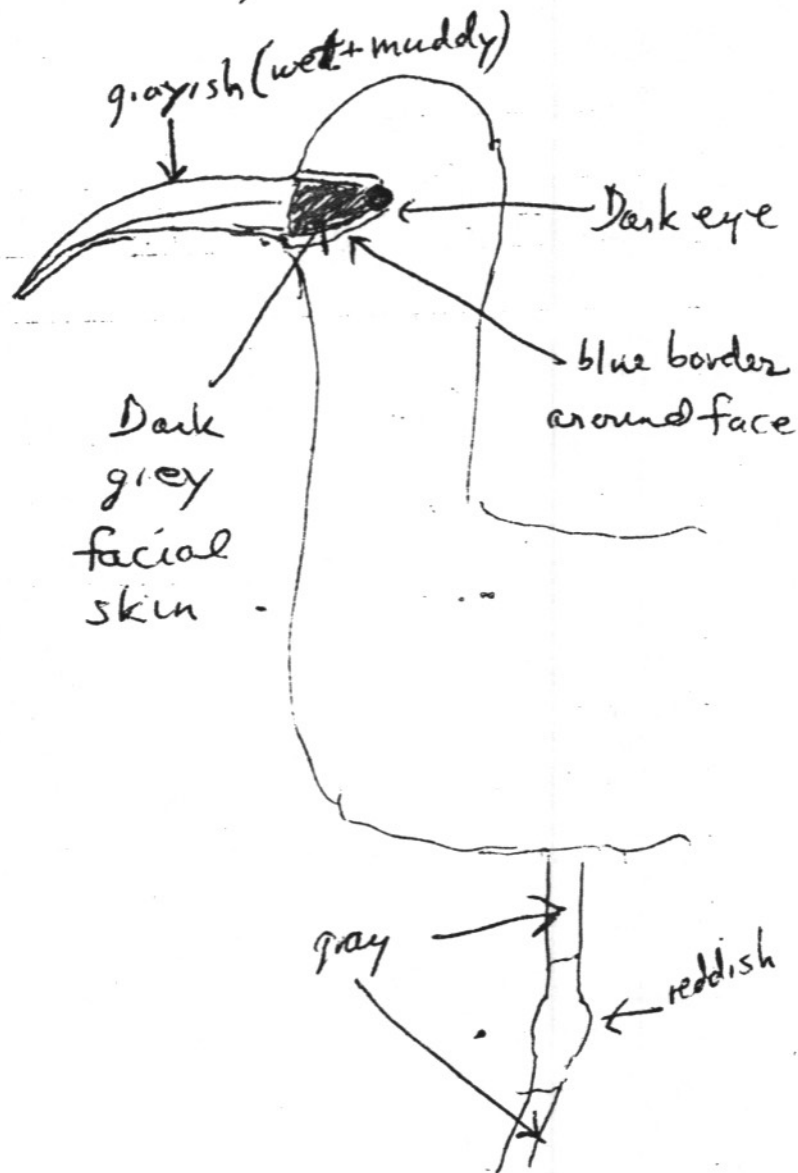
Tel: 970-416-7527

Email: nick.komar@juno.com

5/12/99 CR32 1/2 mi W of I25
2:40 - 3:00 pm LARIMER COUNTY

Observers: NICK KOMAR, CHARLES
BROWN, MARY BROWN

Weather: Sunny 70° no wind



1999-16

Recd 1/31/00 wgl

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

CFO-RC FILE X: _____

RESULTS: _____

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific name): Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*

Date(s) of Observation: 14 May 1999

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: Alternate

Exact location: Larimer County Rd 32, approx. 0.5 miles West of Interstate 25. The bird was on the north side of the road in a flooded field less than 50 meters from the road.

County: Larimer Nearest town: Fort Collins Elevation: 4988 feet ?

Length of observation: Approximately 25 minutes Time(s) of observation: 1115-1145

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: David Ely

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): Nicholas Komar (he discovered the bird 2-3 days earlier) Other reports (2 that I can remember) of this bird appeared on COBirds but I did not record the names of other observers.

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): The Glossy Ibis was to the north and a little west of me in direct sunlight in the late morning. The light quality was excellent.

Optical equipment used: Orion 8x42 Binoculars, Bushnell Spacemaster scope

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): The Glossy Ibis was observed from 30-50 meters.

Was bird(s) photographed? No If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Flooded agricultural field in the strip between county road 32 and the western end of Fossil Creek Reservoir. The Glossy Ibis was in a shallow puddle (less than 6-8 cm deep) that was approximately 40-50m long and 20-25m wide. Emergent vegetation was common in the flooded area.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification): The bird was feeding with a flock of 26 White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi*, moving slowly from east to west in the puddle mentioned above.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of

bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

David Ely and I drove to this spot with the intent of looking for a Glossy Ibis that had been reported in the prior 2-3 days. We spotted the flock of Ibis feeding on the north side of the road, parked, and began to scan the flock for any birds that appeared aberrant from the south side of the road. After approximately 3 minutes of scanning with binoculars David began to scan the flock of Ibis with his scope. I continued looking through my binoculars. As we examined the flock, the birds were generally moving from east to west. As they moved further west the quality of the light improved. As the birds moved they also spread out more, allowing us a better view of birds in the back. At about this point David found a bird in his scope that appeared to be a Glossy Ibis. We crossed the road and were rewarded with excellent viewing from approximately 30 meters.

The bird was clearly a *Plegadis* species in alternate plumage. The color of the feathers appeared vibrant and, given the date, all *Plegadis* should have completed their pre-alternate molt. The plumage was iridescent and possessed a generally auburn color. The legs were a dull gray with a reddish area around the ankle. The facial skin extended to the eye but not behind it and was edged with a thin blue line. The bird was slightly larger than the surrounding Ibis. The difference in size was very subtle.

Describe birds call or song: None were heard

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: The bird was clearly a *Plegadis*. Given this, the possibilities included White, Glossy, and White-faced. White-faced Ibis is the only regularly occurring *Plegadis* species in Colorado. Thus it is critical to distinguish the bird in question from this species. It was easy to dismiss White Ibis due the fact that the bird was in alternate plumage and was magenta in color. This leaves Glossy Ibis as the only other *Plegadis* that regularly occurs in North America. White-faced and Glossy Ibis are very similarly appearing species but with the excellent viewing conditions and adjacent White-faced Ibis available for comparison, we were able to see the crucial characteristics that identified the bird as a Glossy Ibis. The most important character was the eye color. The bird in question possessed a dark eye in contrast to the pink eye of the adjacent White-faced Ibis. Additionally, the facial skin of this bird did not extend behind the eye and had an obvious blue tinge to the border. It is important to note that the facial skin extended above and below the eye but not behind the eye. Leg color was also consistent with Glossy Ibis. The legs were darker overall with pinkish ankles relative to the surrounding White-faced Ibis. A final detail is that the bird appeared slightly larger than the other Ibis in the flock. It is hard to say whether the bird was actually larger or its larger appearance was due to a different body shape.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Earlier in the season (April 10th) I saw a White-faced Ibis that did not possess a white border to its facial skin (presumably because it was not fully molted into alternate plumage). This early White-faced Ibis did not have any bluish color on its facial skin and the facial skin extended behind the eye. This experience was an excellent lesson in *Plegadis* identification. I was able to get excellent looks at this early bird and run through all of the crucial characters for distinguishing White-faced from Glossy Ibis. More generally, I have seen all three species many times in various places in the last five years. In Texas I many White and Glossy Ibis on a birding trip in 1996. Since then I have been living in the west and have observation many White-faced Ibis every spring and summer.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): Before and during the observation I used the National Geographic Field Guide (2nd Edition).

This report was made from notes made during xx or after observation, or later from memory

Date of written report: 15 December, 1999

Reporting observer: Joe Fontaine

Signature: 

Address: 3108 Sumac St.
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
c/o Bill Lisowsky
2919 Silverplume Dr.
Ft. Collins, Co. 80526

Plegadis falcinellus

5/14/99

Glossy Ibis -

near Windsor
exit I-25

~ 1/4 mile W.
N side CR32

26 WFIB

2 BWT

Dark eye, facial skin clearly less extensive, Fote
edged with thin blue line

facial skin above and below eye
but not behind eye

- less dull, knee joint reddish
less clearly darker
than surrounding WFIB

- slightly larger than surrounding birds

WF Ibis: *P. chihi*