

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Results: ACCEPT 7-0

Species: Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
 (Common Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s) of occurrence: May 15, 1999

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: Unknown

Plumage: Adult

Exact location: In flooded field SW of intersection of CR 18 and CR 21

Elevation: Approx. 5000 feet

County: Weld

Nearest town: Fort Lupton, CO

Length of Observation: 10 min.

Time(s) of Observation: about 3:00 pm

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Mark Hullinger of Fort Collins

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): many others.

Light conditions [quality; direction relative to bird(s) position]:
Good light

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

Distance from bird (estimated unless otherwise noted):
10 - 30 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 20 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)

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). This bird was noted to limp, and hung one foot down when it flew a short distance.

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 memory.

Reporting observer: Nicholas Komar

Signature: Nicholas Komar Date: 7/5/99

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