

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if r

Recd 1/31/00 upl

2000 - 15

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

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FJO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Glossy Ibis	(Scientific Name) Plegadis facinellus
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Date(s) of occurrence: 23May1999

Number of birds seen: 1	Sex: unknown	Plumage: alternate
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Exact location: Lower Latham Reservoir, south side

County: Weld	Nearest town: LaSalle	Elevation: ~5000 feet
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Length of observation: 25 minutes	Time(s) of observation: 1600-1625
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Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Beth Dillon, Jerry Dunphy and two other field trip participants

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): Luke Cole and several others whose names I do not know

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: We were looking north at the bird in excellent light. Clear skies, full sun late in the afternoon.

Optical equipment used: Kowa TSN 824 60x magnification, Bushnell Spacemaster 60x magnification

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 80-100 meters

Was bird(s) photographed? No	If so, have you submitted photos?
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Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: The bird was seen in flooded grass adjacent to cattails on the edge of Lower Latham Reservoir

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): The bird was actively foraging along the edge of the cattails.

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): The bird was alone and was an alternate plumaged *Plegadis* Ibis. This was clear from the bright magenta plumage and the bright blue border on the facial skin. The facial skin extended above and below the eye but not behind the eye. The facial skin was edged with an obvious metallic blue color. Despite the distance, we were able to tell that the eye was quite dark. Leg color was difficult to assess due to the tall grass that the bird was foraging in. I was able to tell that the legs were generally dark but I was not able to assess whether the ankles were differently colored than the rest of the legs. The legs had a grayish brown color.

Describe bird's 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 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 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 but the color of the ankles was not well seen.

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. Additionally, David Fly and I observed another Glossy Ibis on 14 May, 1999 in Larimer County.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): The National Geographic field guide (2nd edition) was used during the observation.

This report is from notes made during xxx or after observation or later from memory

Date of written report: 5 January, 2000

Reporting observer: Joe Fontaine

Signature: 

Reporting Observer's Address: 3108 Sumac St

City: Fort Collins

State: CO

Zip: 80526

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

SBDo - hendersoni

→ clean neck, foreneck is completely clean. ~~clean~~ no spots

→ white around vent

→ flanks spotted, not barred

→ much more tan in breast than 2 LBDo

→ primaries appeared to extend slightly beyond tail

G116 80-100m away excellent light

1625

→ blue facial skin, does not extend beyond eye
dark eye clearly not red

Bush Dillon
Jerry Dumphy

→ less not pink but can't see legs well enough for knee color

legs greyish brown Kowa TSN 824 60X

not pink

Bushnell 60X
Spacecaster

↑
knees don't
appear pink