

rec'd 4/27

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form
(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

2001-26

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) **Glossy Ibis**

(Scientific Name) **Plegadis falcinellus**

Number of birds seen: **One**

Sex:

Plumage: **Breeding Adult**

Exact location: **3301 E. Prospect on the north side of the road**

County: **Larimer**

Nearest town: **Ft. Collins**

Elevation:

Length of observation: **20 minutes**

Time(s) of observation: **Approx. 4 p.m.**

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **None**

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): **Unknown**

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): **Late afternoon sun, partly cloudy**

Optical equipment used: **Swarovski Scope with a 20-60 zoom**

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): **Directly across the road**

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: **Shallow water marshy pond**

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): **Probing in the mud**

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): **Glossy chestnut, green and purple plumage, including entire neck and head. DARK EYE. Gray facial skin bordered by a thin blue line that did not go behind the eye or under the chin. Gray-green legs. Red knee joint was not obvious.**

Describe bird's call or song:

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **White-faced Ibis has white that borders red facial skin, and goes behind the eye and under the chin. Has a reddish iris and reddish legs. Directly compared the 2 species standing next to each other.**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **Have seen several other Glossy Ibis out of the state, two in Colorado. Have seen numerous White-faced Ibis both in and out of the state.**

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **Sibley's and National Geographic were used to confirm the identification but I identified the bird without a book.**

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

Date of written report: **4/25/01** DATE OF OBSERVATION **4/24/01**

Reporting observer: **Rachel Kolokoff**

Signature: *Rachel Kolokoff*

Reporting Observer's Address: **1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.**

City: **Ft. Collins**

State: **CO**

Zip: **80524**

**Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
Tony Leukering
P.O. Box 157
Arvada, CO 80001**

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X**Species:** Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

rec'd 4/29/01

Date: 28-29 April 2001 **Number seen:** 1-2 **Sex:** unknown **Plumage:** Alternate**Locality:** Prospect Road, W of I-25 **Elevation:** ~5000'**Nearest town:** Ft. Collins **County:** Larimer**Time observed:** 17:45-17:56 (28th); ~09:30 (29th) **Duration of observation:** 11 mins & 2 mins

Description: While birding on the 28th, I decided to go to Ft. Collins to see if I could refind various goodies that had been previously reported, including the Glossy Ibis that Rachel Kolokoff found on Prospect Rd. I got to the spot and found a flock of >12 *Plegadis* ibises. I started scanning through them and quickly found "the" Glossy. I studied it for a while and wrote notes, then departed. Having driven just another few hundred feet, I saw another group of four ibises, but decided against checking them, as I had to get home. On the 29th when Doug and I were birding, we checked on the ibises (after having Nick Komar tell us that there were two Glossies present). On that date, there were at least 20 ibises and I quickly found both Glossies. As Doug and I were doing a Big Day, we didn't stay long and I didn't really study the second ibis. However, it was in most respects identical to the first one - or, at least, both ibises seemed identical (I cannot say which was the "second" Glossy). Therefore, I describe both birds as one.

The bird was an adult *Plegadis* (large, lanky, long-legged wader, with dark plumage dominated by dark reddish-brown and a bewildering variety of iridescent colors; long neck, long, decurved bill) with bare, dark facial skin (not red) that had palish blue borders above and below. The lower border started immediately beneath and about at the mid-point of the eye and extended about to the base of the mandible. The upper border started immediately above and just back of the mid-point of the eye and continued to the base of the maxilla and wrapped over the base of maxilla and connected to the upper border over the other eye (see sketch done in the field). The lower border was about the same thickness throughout, but the upper border widened slightly in front of the eye and narrowed again before abutting the maxilla. The head, neck, upper back, and underparts were a dark reddish-brown (a singularly odd and distinctive color); the crown was slightly darker - however, I didn't note to what extent, if any, there was iridescent coloration on the head. The wings were dark with varying iridescence and the tail was dark. From just above the tarsal-metatarsal joint down to the water line, the legs were covered in mud, so I could not determine the coloration. However, above the mud line, the legs were yellow (near mustard - not that bright, French's stuff) with a slight green cast.

The tertials extended to just about the tail tip and the longest primary extended as much as an inch (mere guesswork on this distance) beyond the tertials. I studied six White-faceds nearby and all had tertials falling short of the tail tip and the primary tip projection being slightly shorter than that on the Glossy. This made for the longest primary tip falling right about at the tail tip on the White-faceds. Whether this is at all useful, or just a product of low sample size, I do not know. However, it may prove useful. Unfortunately, I did not study this feature on the second Glossy.

Similar species eliminated by description: White-faced Ibis is the only real contender and it is easily eliminated by facial pattern and coloration and by leg color.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): none heard

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen 1000s each of both species of North American *Plegadis*.

Light conditions: patchy sun and clouds, with the sun to my left and slightly behind me

Optical equipment used: Leica 20-60x (set at ~35x) and Swarovski 8.5x42

Distance, and how estimated: estimated at 40m on the 28th and ~25m on the 29th

Other observers who saw the bird with you: none on the 28th, Doug Faulkner on the 29th


Other observers who saw the bird independently: Rachel Kolokoff and Nick Komar (the finder of the second bird), at least

If photographed, type of equipment and film: not photographed

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none **b) after observation:** none

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature: 

Address: Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: 29 April 2001 from notes written during the time of the sighting on the 28th and from memory of the sighting on the 29th

rec'd 5/28

Two Glossy Ibis at Ft. Collins, Larimer County, Colorado, 1 May 2001

On 1 May 2001 I went to look for the Glossy Ibis reported from Ft. Collins on the north side of Prospect Ave. just east of the Poudre River. For 30 minutes I carefully checked the three small White-faced Ibis groups (8, 5, and 10 birds) and failed to find a Glossy Ibis. As I was leaving at 2:50 p.m., I noticed that the westernmost pond contained a new group of five ibis, which I stopped and checked. To my surprise, two were Glossy Ibis. I was able to approach the birds and take a number of photos, which are included with this report. All photos were taken with my Nikon N70 camera, 400mm f5.6 Sigma lens, and Fujichrome 100 ASA slide film. Lighting was excellent for the photos and I was only about 100 ft from the birds, which continued feeding unalarmed. I continued watching and photographing the birds until 3:20 p.m. I am unaware how well the bird found by Rachel Kolikov on 24 Apr 2001 had been documented, and had heard no reports of two birds being present until the report in a 30 Apr 2001 post to CO-BIRDS. I provide this brief account of the circumstances of the sighting and a few of the field marks to document the presence of the two birds 1 May 2001.

Also submitted are notes and sketches made immediately after the sighting. In those notes, I describe essential features for separation of *Plegadis* ibis. The photos clearly show the distinctive facial pattern, bill color, and leg color on both Glossy Ibis and should serve to substitute for a longer written description.

One field mark I noticed I had not heard mentioned previously and may deserve further scrutiny as a potential field mark. I have been interested in color difference of the two *Plegadis* since observing a very bronzy White-faced Ibis among Glossy Ibis at Bombay Hook, DE, in 1995. I have since tried to note plumage differences in any opportunity to compare species directly. In this observation I noticed that the two Glossy Ibis distinctly lacked an iridescent, pale panel on the wing formed by the secondary coverts. I checked this field mark numerous times during this observation and it always served as a good means to pick out the Glossy Ibis. Other plumage differences included a darker reddish color about the head, neck, and underparts on the Glossy Ibis and the lack of any bronzy tones on the tertials. Overall the wings of the Glossy Ibis appeared much more uniform while on the White-faced a shiny paler panel on the secondary coverts contrasted with the rest of the wing.

Another interesting feature is size of the birds. While The Sibley Guide to Birds (by David Sibley, 2000) describes White-faced as averaging slightly larger than Glossy, I have had occasion to compare size directly on at least 6 Glossy Ibis among White-faced Ibis in Texas, one Glossy Ibis among White-faced in Louisiana, and two White-faced Ibis among Glossy Ibis in Maryland. On all occasions the Glossies were distinctly and obviously larger than the White-faced. One additional White-faced Ibis reported from Maryland was reported as being larger than Glossies it was flying with, however, and any observer will note a large range of size variation in any significant flock of *Plegadis*. Nonetheless, I think size can often be a valuable clue to the presence of a rare ibis among a *Plegadis* flock and I believe that Sibley misrepresented the difference inasmuch as Glossy is usually larger than White-faced.

Finally my written notes describe differences noted between the two birds, which may help to establish the range of dates for each individual, if other observers have provided photos or detailed descriptions. Briefly, one bird (bird #1 in my notes) was somewhat smaller than the other Glossy (matching the largest White-faced in size), and had a much brighter powder blue border to the dark gray facial skin, and The segment above the facial skin was only slightly thicker and brighter than the segment below the facial skin. The second individual (bird #2 in my notes) was somewhat larger than bird #1 (and exceeded all White-faced in size), and had a duller more bluish (less whitish) border to the facial skin. The lower border was very obscure and difficult to detect, and was much less prominent than the relatively obvious upper border.

brighter legs with a slight pinkish cast

Feel free to contact me if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Marshall Hiff
901 Crystal Spring Farm Rd.
Annapolis, MD 21403
miliff@aol.com
(410) 269-1589

#1

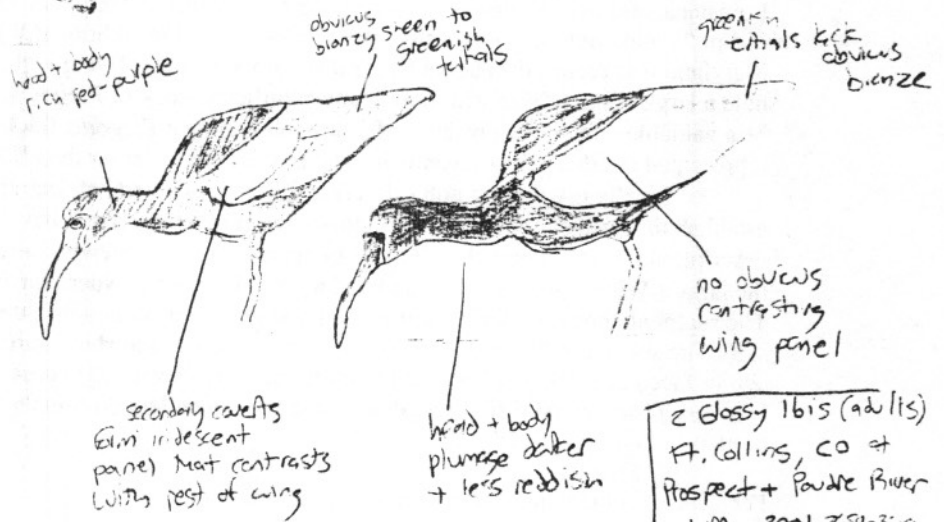


bird #2 was larger, had facial skin border that was darker and bluer, esp patch blue-white, and had a reduced ~~to~~ to border in lower border to the facial skin.

bird #1 was larger than all (white-faced) present except one, bird #2 even exceeded that bird in overall size

Other differences included dull green eyes, legs w/ darker joints & no red or pink tues. Also the secondary coverts were darker + did not form a contrasting pale panel as on WFIB. Tertiaries less bronzy

Both differed from white-faced in dark grey facial skin w/ distinctive white/blue border. That did not encircle rear of dark eye. Also darker (less red) on head, neck + chest - darker bill, facial skin blending into bill vs. sharp cutoff on WFIB.



2 Glossy Ibis (adults)
Ft. Collins, CO at
Prospect + Poudre River
1 May 2001, 2:50-3:00
~ 10 photos



Scans of slides taken by Marshall Iliff

2001-26