

rev'd 5/10 (R)

2001-41

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form** (Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.) Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

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

Date(s) of occurrence: 4/24/01

Number of birds seen: one Sex: unknown Plumage: Adult in alternate plumage.

Exact location: Pastorius Reservoir, La Plata County, Colorado

County: La Plata Nearest town: Durango Elevation: ~6800 feet

Length of observation: 45 minutes

Time(s) of observation: 9:45 - 10:30 AM

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Jim Beatty

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s):

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Excellent lighting from behind us.

Optical equipment used: Kowa TSN-2 with 20-60x zoom, Swarovski 7x42 binoculars.

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 75 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: reservoir on a mesa top; the reservoir is surrounded by mainly agricultural lands.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): The bird was foraging in shallow water & in the grass on a narrow point of land extending out into the reservoir. The Glossy Ibis was with > 50 White-faced Ibises.

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 Glossy Ibis had a distinctly blue coloration to the border that outlines the facial skin. The facial skin of the Glossy Ibis was gray with a light blue border. The eye color was brown. The bill color was brown with slightly more of a yellow tint than the bills of the nearby White-faced Ibises. The color of the legs were dark with red intertarsal joints. The Glossy Ibis was among the tallest of the ibises, although several White-faced Ibises (3 - 5) were as tall. Other than the legs, face & bill, the bird was similar to the adult White-faced Ibises in morphology & plumage. Specifically, the bird identified as the Glossy Ibis was a medium-sized wading bird with a decurved bill. The head, neck, mantle and underparts were red in color. The wings and wing coverts were an iridescent green.

Describe bird's call or song: Vocalizations not heard.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: The border surrounding the facial skin was blue rather than white as in the White-faced Ibis. The eye color was dark instead of red as in the White-faced Ibis. The most prominent field mark was the obvious color difference in the border outlining the facial skin. What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I am much more familiar with White-faced Ibises than Glossy Ibises.

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

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America and The Sibley Guide to Birds were consulted to confirm that eye color and facial skin color corresponded with the light blue border outlining the facial skin for Glossy Ibis.

This report is from notes made during observation or later from memory or after This report was completed from notes written later the same day.

Date of written report: 4/24/01

Reporting observer: Susan Allerton

Reporting Observer's Address: 61 Newland Circle

City: Durango State: CO Zip: 81301

Signature:

