

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X**Species:** Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)**Date:** 2-3 May 2002 **Number seen:** three **Sex:** ? **Plumage:** Def. Alternate**Locality:** Buckley Rd. at 128th **Elevation:** ~ 5000'**Nearest town:** Barr **County:** Adams**Time observed:** mid-afternoon (2nd); early morning (3rd) **Duration of observation:** about 15 mins

Description: Chris Wood and I were driving on Buckley Rd. when we noticed a large (>135) flock of dark ibis on the west side of the road. We stopped and got out to scan them for Glossies, figuring with that many, there MUST be a Glossy in the flock. To our surprise, there were actually three! Unfortunately, Chris found all three, one at a time. He would find one and, while I was studying that bird, he would find another. And ditto. The bum! There were no two Glossy Ibis together; each had only White-faced neighbors.

All three birds were reasonably similar, so I describe them here as one, noting any differences where important. They were all obviously *Plegadis* ibis (tall, dark, long-legged wading birds with a long, strongly decurved bill) that differed from all other members of the flock in having dark eyes (not red) and the red on the legs restricted to the metatarsal joint (the "ankle"). The bare facial skin was dark with no hint of red or pink and was bordered above and below by pale blue. The upper border was much thicker than was the lower border (on two birds, one bird had borders of similar thickness), particularly about halfway between the eye and the bill. Neither of the borders extended behind the eye, but both extended above/below the bill, but only as very thin lines that I could barely detect at close range (I could not detect the borders extending over and under the bill on one bird). The tertials on all three were dark with a purplish iridescence. Two of the birds were larger than all White-faced neighbors, one was as large as the largest White-faced neighbor; I only saw each Glossy in direct comparison to 10-20 individual White-faces.

Similar species eliminated: The only real ID contenders are White-faced Ibis and dark ibis hybrids, which I eliminated by eye color, facial pattern and color, and leg color and pattern. Additionally, as they were all in Alternate, the difference in color/iridescence of the tertials was quite noticeable and I could regularly pick out the Glossy Ibis on that feature alone.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): No vocalizations heard.

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

Light conditions: sun above me (2nd) and behind me (3rd)

2002-131

Optical equipment used: Leica 32x

Distance, and how estimated: estimated closest approach of about 30 meters

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Chris Wood, Stacey Peterson, Alison Cariveau, et al.

Other observers who saw the bird independently: none

If photographed, type of equipment and film: I did not photograph

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 80603

Date report was written: 2 May 2002 and 14 January 2004, from notes written the evening of the first day's sighting

CFO-ORC FILE # 2002-131

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

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NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X**Species:** Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)**Date:** 2 May 2002 **Number seen:** one (of three present) **Sex:** unknown **Plumage:** adult**Locality:** in a field on the east side of Buckley Road approximately 100 meters south of 128th Ave.**Elevation:** ~5,000 ft.**Nearest town:** Brighton**County:** Adams**Time observed:** late morning between 1030 and 1100 hrs**Duration of observation:** approximately 4 minutes total**Description:**

I received a phone call from Tony Leukering saying that there were three Glossy Ibis at the above location. I left the office and drove straight there, where I found Tony, Chris Wood, Nancy Gobris, Stacey Campbell, Jason Beason and Jenny Rectewald standing alongside Buckley looking at a large flock of 89 *Plegadis* ibis. Because Jason was hogging the scope, I had to go back and retrieve mine from the car. Once it was set up and I began scanning the flock, I noticed a large ibis that didn't look right for White-faced (*Plegadis chihi*). Upon further inspection I noticed that the facial skin, immediately in front of the eye and extending to the bill, was a rich blue bordered by thin white lines above and below, but which did not extend around the eye. The eye was entirely dark, even in different lighting angles as the bird stood preening - I was able to see the red eyes of White-faced Ibis in close proximity to this individual. Because of the sexual dimorphism in size for *Plegadis* sp., this individual was probably a male. I did not notice leg or bill color or covert pattern, although I overheard these being discussed by the other observers. Also discussed was the possibility of hybridization, but the blue facial skin (not violet-blue as in the case of a hybrid Chris had recently seen in Texas) ruled out that possibility. There were apparently two other smaller Glossy Ibis there, but I did not see them.

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 some experience with this species from working in Mississippi and birding in Florida many years ago. I have spent the most recent 3 years living in Colorado during which time I have seen hundreds, if not thousands, of White-faced Ibis.

Light conditions: sun was high and to the left, mostly overcast

Optical equipment used: Kowa 77mm scope with 20x60 eyepiece; 7x42 Zeiss binoculars

Distance, and how estimated: about 175-225 meters

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Tony Leukering, Chris Wood, Stacey Campbell, Nancy Gobris, Jason Beason, and Jennie Rectenwald

Other observers who saw the bird independently: none

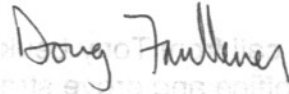
If photographed, type of equipment and film:

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: Doug Faulkner

Signature:



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

Date report was written: 2 May 2002 from memory.