

2003-19

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

Accepted

CBRC FILE #: 2003-19		
RESULTS: (A)		
Species: (Common Name): Glossy Ibis		(Scientific Name): <i>Plegadis falcinellis</i>
Date(s) of occurrence: May 13, 2002		
Number of birds seen: 1	Sex: unknown	Plumage: alternate
Exact location: In a field on the south side of Hwy 52 about 0.2 miles west of County Line Road.		
County: Boulder	Nearest town:	Elevation:
Length of observation: 10 minutes	Time(s) of observation: late afternoon	
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Andrew Spencer		
Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): bird was found by Peter Gent		
Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Sunny; the sun was to the west; the bird was to the south of us		
Optical equipment used: Nikon ED Fieldscope with 20-45x zoom eyepiece		
Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 60 yards		
Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? yes	If so, are you submitting photos? yes	
Who took the photograph(s)? Andrew Spencer		
Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Open wet field with short grass		
Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: It was foraging in an ibisly fashion in the company of a great many of its congeners.		
DESCRIPTION – ID as a Plegadis ibis was easy. It was a medium-sized, long-legged wader with a long, thick, decurved bill. Its plumage was primarily dark reddish, except for large iridescent greenish patches in the wings. ID as a Glossy was more difficult. Key field marks included a pale gray leg color with no discernible red, not even on the knees; a dark eye; dark grayish or bluish facial skin which was bordered by two bright pale blue lines, one above the facial skin, going from bill to eye; the other below, going from bill to eye. These lines stopped at the eye and did not continue around to encircle it.		
Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted:		
SIMILAR SPECIES – The similar species that must be eliminated is White-faced Ibis, which were abundant in the same field with this bird and provided numerous opportunities for direct comparison. Adult alternate WFIBs are unlikely to be mistaken, with bright red legs, a red eye, and red facial skin with a broad white border. Certain WFIBs, though, presumably younger birds, can show duller bare parts and fewer white facial feathers. There were a couple birds like this also in view. Typically they had red around the knees, at least, and the white border around the facial skin was less striking than on this Glossy, yet more complete—with a close view it typically could be seen to be of roughly uniform thickness all the way around the facial skin.		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I had seen both species before many times, but I'd never had direct comparisons before, and indeed, I'd rarely bothered with separating the two on the basis of anything other than range. Over the previous year, however, with growing interest, I had begun to study ibis, particularly one individual in South Texas in the summer of 2001 and large flocks of the birds in NE Colorado in the weeks preceding this observation. All these individuals had turned out to be demonstrably White-faced, but I had gained a tentative feel for the variation within the species.		
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): The Sibley Guide to Birds; Kaufmann's Advanced Birding; both studied during and after the observation		
This report was made from (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> notes made during observation <input type="checkbox"/> notes made after observation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> later from memory.		
Date and time of written report: March 19, 2003		
Reporting observer: Nathan Pieplow	Signature:	
Reporting observer's address: 4745-B White Rock Circle		
City: Boulder	State: CO	Zip: 80301

Send report to:
Colorado Bird Records Committee
Tony Leukering
PO Box 660
Brighton, CO 80601

