

Here is my GLIB report.

39th

Cameron

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rec'd 8/13/03

A

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

7-0

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

2003-59

CBRC FILE #: 2003-59

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) Glossy Ibis

(Scientific Name) Plegadis falcinellus

Date(s) of occurrence: 07-10-03

Number of birds seen: 1 adult

Sex: unknown

Plumage: Alternate

Exact location: East dike on the auto loop at Alamosa NWR.

County: Alamosa

Nearest town: Alamosa

Elevation:

Length of observation: 2 minutes

Time(s) of observation: ~11:00 A.M.

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

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s):

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Bright sunlight, with the sun being almost overhead but slightly to the west as I was looking west.

Optical equipment used: 7x42 Swarovski SLC

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): ~20 ft.

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? No

If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Small pool with muddy edges surrounded by a large marsh.

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: I observed the bird feeding from a distance, dipping its bill into shallow water and probing in the mud. As I drove up the bird assumed an alert posture, with its head in a much more vertical stance and neck stretched out, turning its head side-to-side.

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and give as many particulars as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Please fill out this portion even if photographing your report. Typical Plegadis ibis, unmistakable, long decurved bill, rich maroon body, head and neck, metallic green coverts, tertials, primaries. As the bird flew away from me, the secondaries caught the sunlight and showed a strong metallic bronze color. The coverts and primaries appeared bronze as they often do on GLIB. The legs were dull brown and lacked any reddish color around the knee joint. The eye color was brown and didn't appear to have any reddish or pinkish tints to it. The facial skin in front of the eye, was also brown and also seemed to lack any red. The upper border of the facial skin was a paler blueish-gray, narrow above the eye and wider in the supra-loral area creating some what of a white line. The lower border was the same color and of even width. These two borders clearly outlined the dark eye and facial skin, and where fairly obvious. The fact that they did not have the baby blue color of high alternate. The exact bill color was not noted except that I remember that it did not contrast with the dark facial skin.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: none

SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: White-faced Ibis or a hybrid are the only other possibilities. I saw many WFIB on this day, and all the adults still retained the white feather border around the face, though most had a ragged border. WFIB also showed red facial skin and bright red eyes. The classic pale border to the facial skin and the white eye should eliminate all pure WFIB. A hybrid is a bit more difficult to eliminate, the only characteristics that might be consistent with a hybrid are the lack of bronze color in the coverts and the fact that it didn't seem to be as large as is typical for GLIB. I believe that both these characteristics are variable enough that they can be disregarded. Otherwise I had no reason to believe that the bird wasn't a pure GLIB. Despite the fact the Plegadis seem to hybridize regularly, I believe that pure GLIB are more likely to be found out of range than hybrids.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have much experience with both Plegadis for the East Coast and the West Coast. I saw numerous WFIB and several GLIB in Texas this spring. I have twice seen birds that showed the characters of a Plegadis ibis hybrid. How did this report was made from (check one) notes made during observation notes made after observation later from memory.

Date and time of written report: 08/03/03

Reporting observer: Cameron Cox

Signature: Cameron Cox

Reporting observer's address: 119 N G street