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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X**Species:** Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)**Date:** 11 May 2003 **Number seen:** one **Sex:** ? **Plumage:** Alternate**Locality:** Headquarters Pond, Chico Basin Ranch **Elevation:** ~5200'**Nearest town:** Hanover **County:** Pueblo**Time observed:** evening **Duration of observation:** ~1 minute

Description: On finding a flock of ~30 dark ibis, Brandon Percival and I searched the flock for Glossy Ibis, hoping to add the species to the all-time Ranch list. It was shortly before sunset and the ibis were a bit skittish (and in a spot where it was difficult to see the birds well), but we eventually saw all of the individuals well and found one Glossy Ibis.

The bird was very similar to the White-faced Ibis present, but differed in all important ways. The eyes were dark (not red). The facial skin was dark (not pink or red), and was bordered above and below by strips of pale blue. Neither of these patches of blue extended behind the eye, but the upper one, at least, extended to and over the bill, which was paler than the bills of the other ibis. The legs were brownish with red patches at the metatarsal joints. Due to the lighting conditions, I was unable to assess the color and iridescence of the tertials. Unfortunately, I did not write in my notes on the size of the bird and do not recall.

Similar species eliminated: White-faced Ibis is ruled out by the various features described above. There are no other ID contenders in North America.

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

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen >1000s each of White-faced and Glossy ibis, including at least 10 of the latter in Colorado.

Light conditions: sun was behind and slightly right originally, then in front and left when we changed locations to get a better view of the flock

Optical equipment used: Swarovski 8.5x42 and Leica 32x

Distance, and how estimated: estimated closest approach of ~20 meters

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Brandon Percival

Other observers who saw the bird independently: none