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Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(this is a two page report-click at the bottom for page 2)

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7-0CFO-RC FILE X: ~~2000-003~~ 2001-003

RESULTS: _____

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific name): white Ibis
Eudocimus albus

Date(s) of Observation: 6/2/01

Number of birds seen: one Sex: ? Plumage: adult

Exact location: 1.5 miles east of Bent County Rd #17, on JS (immediately north of Road).

County: Bent

Nearest town: Fort Lyon, Colorado

Elevation: ?

Length of observation: 15 minutes
observation: 1

Time(s) of

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: 0

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): First reported by DAVIS

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): sunny, calm. Good light.

Optical equipment used: Bird easily identified with naked eye. Also observed using Bushnell 10X50 WA binoculars.

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): less than 100 feet. The bird first landed in marsh nearest road then walked to north-east point of marsh.

Was bird(s) photographed? No If so, have you submitted photos? N/A

Who took the photographs? N/A

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: shallow marsh in Fort Lyons Wildlife area.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the

First seen flying very low over marsh, descending. Then observed feeding along with white-faced Ibis (9) and black-necked stilts (3).

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page 2

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):

Describe birds call or song: not heard.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: was very easy to differentiate from other birds in marsh due to white color, pink/red face and bill.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? This was my first sighting of the white Ibis.

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, Third Edition.

This report is from notes made during ___ or after ☒ observation, or later from memory ___.

Date of written report: 6-5-01

Reporting observer: Marie Cécile Lee

Address: 12880 Cherokee Trail Dr
Elbert, CO 80106

Signature:

Marie Cécile Lee

Send report to:

Colorado Birds Record Committee

Subj: **White Ibis documentation**
Date: 11/26/2002 1:23:41 PM Mountain Standard Time
From: leaster@centurytel.net
To: GreatGrayOwl@aol.com
Sent from the Internet

2001-54

To the Official Colorado Birds Records Committee.

On 2 June, 2001, I drove along Bent County Road JJ just east of the migrant landbird oasis known to Colorado Birders as "Van's Grove". Just east of this grove is a famous wetland, which is sometimes submerged and serves as a western bay of John Martin Reservoir, sometimes a cattail marsh along Gageby Creek, and occasionally, as in 2001, a fabulous mudflat surrounded by cattails, with running water coursing through. I call this area the Gageby Creek wetland.

Slightly after noon on 2 June, 2001, I stopped to look at the marsh on my way to monitoring local Least Terns and Piping Plovers at John Martin Reservoir. As I was stopped, a flock of White-faced Ibis flew in to the marsh from the southeast. In the flock of about 30 White-faced Ibis was a larger white bird, which I instantly recognized as an adult White Ibis. This bird was all white, except for red (not reddish) legs which dangled beyond the tail, a long red bill, that was decurved, and tipped with black, and black wing tips. It dropped down to land on bowed wings, with a flight profile similar to the White-faced Ibis.

All the ibis landed on the mudflat at the north edge of the wetland, many obscured by tall cattails. However, I was able to pick out the White Ibis easily, because it towered several inches above the White-faced Ibis. When I looked at the bird through binoculars (10X40 B & L Custom), and my B & L spotting scope, I saw that the eye was inside a bright red, featherless face.

This bird was immediately recognizable as an ibis by the decurved bill, medium size (compared with larger herons), and rounded wings in flight. The white plumage, with bright red legs, black-tipped decurved reddish beak, and red area on the anterior part of the face makes this unmistakably an adult White Ibis.

I have seen White Ibis from Florida to Texas to Mexico, and consider the species to be as unmistakable as any water bird. I have seen White Ibis three times in Colorado, including the first state record of an immature at Neesopah Reservoir in Kiowa County, and an adult at Barr Lake in Adams County.

I reported this bird to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert (303)424-2144 within an hour of when I found it, and it was put on the tape immediately. I expected others to refind it, but this time, that was not the case. Partly because of this find, I expedited the process of joining the Colorado Field Ornithologists "Cobirds" site on the internet, where I posted my first message on 21 June, 2001. I have a long tradition of posting rare birds to the Colorado Birding Community, and most active birders in the state have seen other rarities I have posted.

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