









PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave.
West Chester, PA 19380
nickpulcinella@verizon.net

SPECIES (common and scientific name) White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

Subspecies (if known) Unknown

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS One

SEX(ES) Unknown

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable):

Juvenile

DATE OF OBSERVATION July 19, 2008

TIME from approximately 7:30 to 8:00 AM EDT

LOCATION (city, borough, township) South of Kleinfeltersville, Lancaster County

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Kleinfeltersville Rd, Middle Creek WMA,

OBSERVER REPORTING : Jeff Hopkins
ADDRESS : 1225 Pericles Pl., Whitehall, PA 18052
TELEPHONE : Home: 610-776-0189
Work: 610-481-6960
E-MAIL : hopkinja@airproducts.com

OTHER OBSERVERS : Allen Youse
122 Hill Rd.
Kutztown, PA 19530
PH: 610-894-9604

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details)
Small pond with small bushes along its edge, and nearby tall trees.

DISTANCE TO BIRD ~50'

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you
Sunny and extremely hazy. Sun was behind us, but it only made the haze more noticeable

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Leica APO Televid 77 w/20x60 Zoom
Leica 8 x 42 binoculars

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed – size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

The bird was about 20" tall with a long (6" - 7") downcurved bill and long, thin, wader legs which bent backward at the "knee". The bill was thicker (1-1-1/2") at the base and tapered to a blunt point. Clearly an ibis.

Bill color was faded orange with lots of dark smudges, although the underside of the bill was more flesh-colored than orange. There was orange bare skin around the dark eye. The facial feathers were a mix of shades of off-

white, but I couldn't make out a clear pattern, such as a mask, ear-patch, etc. The head and neck were predominantly off-white with thin brown streaks (parallel to the length). On the front of the bird, the streaks faded away towards the cleaner breast. On the back of the neck the streaks thickened, blending into the dark back.

The wings, mantle, and tip of the tail were a uniform dark matte brown. The wings extended to about the end of the tail – the tail stuck out maybe a half-inch or so. The tail end was slightly rounded. Other than a small white horizontal wedge at the scapulars, there were no streaks, spots or any other markings on the dark brown feathering of the coverts or wings. However, when the bird opened its wings a bit, I could see that only the terminal 2-3 inches of the tail was dark brown. The rump was white. The belly was also white although much of the time we were looking at the bird from above, so the belly could not be seen well. At one point, one or two white feathers stuck up from between the wings. The underwings were also white (I think with a dark edging, but I'm not 100% sure on that).

The legs were a dirty orangy-brown, but that may have been mud rather than their natural color. White feathering came about half-way down the tibias. At times it seemed like one feathered tibia was thicker than the other, and at other times they seemed the same size.

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

The bird was feeding in the pond. It would walk along the edge of the pond probing the bottom with its bill. When it found something, which was usually as soon as it put its bill in the water, it brought it up in the tip of its bill, put its head upright, and tossed the food into its mouth in one motion. One or two times it jumped up and put its wings up like it was going to take off, but it immediately put its wings back down and continued feeding.

After 20 minutes of this, it flew up to the top of a nearby bare tree and preened. There was a kingfisher in the tree which the ibis ignored. Every so often it would flap its wings once or twice then settle down and continue preening.

After 10 minutes in the tree, it flew down out of sight.

VOCALIZATIONS None

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph ☒ Video recording ☐ Audio recording ☐ Drawing ☒

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Photo – Allen Youse

Drawings – Jeff Hopkins

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known

Not applicable

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

Adult *Plegadis* ibis species would have dark brown and green heads and longer, thinner flesh colored, not orange, bills. Juvenile *plegadis* birds would still be overwhelmingly dark, with some streakiness on the head and neck. Body would have glossy green shading, and reddish tones to the dark plumage. Light head and no glossy color are inconsistent with a *plegadis*.

Uniform dark body and thick, orange-tinged bill rules out shorebirds (curlew, whimbrel, etc.).

Too small for wood stork, which would be white with black flight feathers and a dirty, flesh-colored bill..

DISCUSSION – Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

I've seen adult white ibises, but never a juvenile. I've seen plenty of adults of both *plegadis* species, and a few juveniles.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION ? (why or why not)

Yes, no other species matches the light head and dark body with a long, orange, downcurved bill.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation

After observation

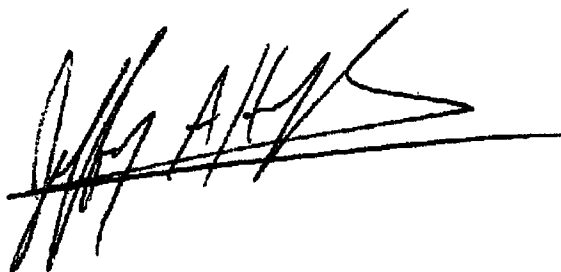
None – sketches were made before consulting field guide.

Nat'l Geographic (3rd ed.), Sibley Guide (1st ed.)

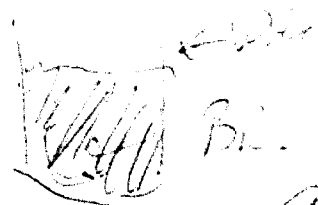
DATE OF THIS REPORT:

20 July 2008

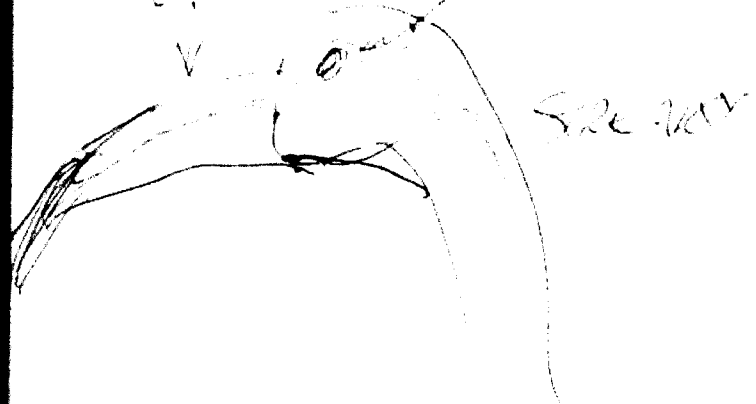
SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. A. H. S.', written over a horizontal line.

White Lamp



GRAND / BLACK SPOTTES
CRAB



WHITE

CRAB
HORN

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SPECIES (common and scientific name) White Ibis
 Subspecies, if known ~~White Ibis~~

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) Unknown

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): This was a juvenile bird. I think it was molting into adult plumage.

DATE OF OBSERVATION August 16, 2008 TIME 1630

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Klein Lettersville

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Middle Creek W.M.A. on Hopewell Road.

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Pamela D. Fisher
 Address 761 Willow Lane
 City Gap State PA ZIP 17527
 e-mail (optional) goldeagle-60@yahoo.com phone (optional) _____

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

Jeff & Amy Davis, Mr. Smith & Fay Smith

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details):

Small shallow pond. This pond had dead trees in back of it, and a lot of vegetation around it.

DISTANCE TO BIRD 100 yds?

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you):

It was a mostly sunny, with a few fair weather clouds. The sun was still high, but starting to go to our front and left.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Bushnell 20x 50 scope

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

This bird was shorter in the legs than a ~~great~~ Great Egret. It also had a downward curved bill. It was white on the underside, light brown on the head and neck, dark brown on the upperside. The bill was starting to turn red.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) It was feeding in this small pond. Then it flew to a dead tree where it preened for a while.

VOCALIZATIONS I heard no vocalizations

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph X Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name Pamela D. Fisher

Address 761 Willow Lane

City Gap State PA Zip 17527

e-mail (optional) goldeagle60@yahoo.com phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____

if collected (by permit), location of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) I don't know of any other wading birds with this color pattern. The body & bill shape and size was like an Ibis. The color pattern fits only juvenile White Ibis as far as I know

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: This bird has been present here for a month. Many other birders have seen it.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES I have seen this specie one time before, and it was also a juvenile. I have seen Glossy Ibis several times, Great Egret many times.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) Yes. This bird has been here for a while, and seen by many. I also have photographs. The bird was clearly seen, and looks just like the illustrations in the field guide.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation Sibleys Guide to Eastern Birds

After observation _____

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 8/17/08

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Pamela P. Fisher

I am sorry about the paper quality for the photos. I ran out of photo paper. I know this bird has probably already had documentation ~~sub~~ submitted for it, but I figured I had better submit this just in case.

Pam





2008/08/16

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) at Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster County, PA, 20-Jul-2008

Observer:

Geoff Malosh

450 Amherst Ave.

Moon Township, PA 15108-2654

412.735.3128

pomarine@earthlink.net

Facts:

Temperature: 80 F rising to 85 F

Wind: s or sw, 5-10 MPH

Sky: clear

Time: 7:50 AM to 10:00 AM

Optics: Leica Ultravid 10x42 binoculars, KOWA TSN-824 82mm spotting scope

Camera: Canon 20D Digital SLR, 500mm f/4L IS with 1.4x teleconverter

Photos or audio recordings: 3 photos submitted, taken from a distance of 75 yards (cropped from original), attached to this message

Accompanying observers: none

Documentation date: July 20, 2008

Submission date: July 21, 2008

Photos:

- Ibis_White_MdICrkPA_20080720_20D2_9120M.jpg (profile view)
- Ibis_White_MdICrkPA_20080720_20D2_9125M.jpg (profile view with unidentified food)
- Ibis_White_MdICrkPA_20080720_20D2_9127M.jpg (flight from behind left, turned 45 degrees away from camera)

Please note: all submitted pictures are reprocessed and sometimes cropped down from the original camera file, then resized and JPEG compressed to reduce file size. As with all JPEG compression of digital pictures, in some cases, subtle detail is lost. Uncompressed, full resolution TIFF images are available on request.

Observation:

A juvenile White Ibis had been reported at Middle Creek WMA beginning 17-Jul through 19-Jul. I was present the morning of 20-Jul and found the bird at 7:50 AM in the same area as previously reported: on Hopeland Road, about 150 yards past "Stop 1" of the Middle Creek self-guided driving route. The bird was on the left (west) side of the road in the front of two roadside ponds, about 75 yards from my position when I first encountered it. The clear sky and abundant sunshine behind me to the east allowed for excellent viewing and good (but distant) photography. After about 20 minutes, the bird took flight and moved to a second pond directly behind the first, putting it maybe 150 to 200 yards from the road. I stayed in the area for the next two hours, during which time the bird alternately perched on various tree limbs and posts to preen, and foraged in the pond below. Often while in the pond the bird was not visible from the road.

Description:

The bird was obviously an Ibis based on the characteristic structure of that family: a large wading bird with an elongated neck, bigger overall than Green Heron but not so large as the larger herons such as Great Blue Heron or Great Egret, with a long, thick, and curved bill of comparable length to the neck. In flight the bird showed quick but shallow wingbeats and a direct flight pattern.

The bill was a mottled orange/pink with some dark color mixed in randomly (see pictures). The orange bare parts of the bill extended onto the bird's face and around the eyes, which were dark. The neck was overall a pale brown, with darker streaking on the back of the neck and the crown. The underparts were generally clean white. The back and all parts of the wing were a dark and generally even brown. The bare parts of the legs were a pale orange/pink similar to the bill.

In flight the bird showed a clean white rump and extensive white underwings with darker flight feathers. The tail was dark brown, forming a wide brown band behind the all-white rump in flight. The dark color of the tail was broken by a small band of white amid the brown color, closer to the bases of the feathers.

Discussion:

The bird was obviously an ibis by the general size and shape. The white underparts and white rump eliminate the darker *Plegadis* ibises, leaving White Ibis as the only choice. The dark wings and back classify the bird as a HY individual. Juvenile White Ibises briefly have a dark gray or dusky bill which quickly gives way to a pale orange or pink; apparently the dark color on this bird's bill was leftover from this initial juvenal coloration but the fact that so much of it remained indicates that this bird was particularly young.

Prior experience:

I have seen but one other White Ibis in Pennsylvania, but have seen many thousands in my travels throughout the southeastern United States.

Geoff Malosh | Editor, *Pennsylvania Birds*

450 Amherst Avenue | Moon Township, PA 15108-2654 | 412.735.3128

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: White Ibis Eudocimus albus

Date of Sighting: 17 July 2008 to 22 July 2008

County : LANCASTER

Location : MIDDLE CREEK WMA

Observer(s): Barry Bell m.obs

Date of Submission: 2008

Submitted by: Geoff Malosh

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
C. Rutt	X							
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

7/10

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

08/30/08