









White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

Lycoming Co.

Heading south on Rt. 220S., on the southern edge of the borough of Picture Rocks (Lycoming Co.), on Friday 7 August, I noticed a van stopped on the south-facing berm. This was at a grassy area where, after heavy rains, it becomes a small pond. I often check this spot for waterfowl/shorebirds, during these times. Chris(last name withheld by request) and her daughter were in the stopped van and had been observing the bird for 10-15 minutes. They had not identified the bird. As we observed the bird and noted it's behavior and field marks, using the National Geographic Field Guide to North American Birds, 4th edition, I was able to conclude that it was a juvenile White Ibis. The bird was casually wading and feeding in the water (observed taking and feeding on a frog). The bird appeared to be about 2 feet in length, from bill to tail. The long (4"-6") decurved mandible was fleshy pink in color becoming dark near the base of the upper mandible. The head and long neck was a brownish flecking. The mantle was dark gray, extending to the wings, which were slightly darker gray. The flanks and breast were white, extending to the tibia. The Tarsii were fleshy pink to somewhat darker on the lower tarsus and the toes. The eyes were dark. As the bird stretched it's wings, it's white underwing coverts were seen. On each side of the bird, white lines extended several inches towards the back of the bird. The bird was observed by Chris and myself with her Equinox 8x42 binoculars, then later I picked up my Leitz 7x42BA Trinovid binoculars, to view the bird. After calling Dave Ferry, he brought his Kowa spotting scope for additional close-up viewing and digi-photos. The bird continued to casually feed throughout the wet area for several hours. The weather for the time observed was mostly sunny with some clouds moving in in the afternoon; temperatures ranged from 65F to 75F.

Our views of the bird were excellent, as the A.M. sun was behind us. I spent approximately 3 hours watching the bird from 0930-1130, then for a brief time in the afternoon. I was not present when the bird left, but would have been sometime between 1530-1700. The area along Muncy Creek (approx 1/4 mi. from where bird was seen) was searched without success. This is believed to be a 1st county record (Lycoming).

Wesley P. Egli

61 Center St., Picture Rocks PA 17762; hillscreeker@yahoo.com.

093-01-2009

From: Haircombbows@aol.com [mailto:Haircombbows@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2009 11:52 AM
To: nickpulcinella@verizon.net
Subject: Bird Story

Dear Nick,

On Friday August 7, 2009 My daughter and I were on our way to a Yard sale in the Picture Rocks area of Lycoming County. I am always looking out to see what birds I can see, my daughter and I have been learning about all kinds of birds and going on bird trips with our Aunt from West Chester Bird Club near Philly. However, on this morning we were on our own when we spotted this beautiful bird. We drove on to the Yard Sale and then came back and the bird was still there. I did not have any of my bird books or binoculars with me. But we sat there watching him for about 15 minutes when one of the local birds, Wes Egli stopped with his bird book. We all began looking the bird up, we at first thought a long billed curlew, but the markings were just too different. Tessa, my daughter suggested that I run home and get my birding information and our new digital camera. Since Wes was there with her I left her there with the Bird and Wes and I went home to get all our gear. When I return to the site, Wes had found the bird in his bird book and when looking the marking matched, but this was a rare bird for this area. My Daughter, Tessa took 76 pictures trying to get the best shots she could. The best picture of all was when the Ibis found a frog to eat. We actually could see it going down his throat. It was amazing to watch this bird while he looked for food. We ended up discovering that the Bird is a White Ibis. We contacted, Daniel Brauning, Wildlife Diversity Program Pennsylvania Game Commission, 61 Windy Lane, Montgomery, PA 17752 and found out that it had never before had it been record in the lycoming county area. So after reporting the bird and its location we were told that this was a new record for this area. We were so excited to have seen such a rare bird and been able to film it too. We only had one area of problem we were so excited that my daughter forgot to set the correct date on the camera for the pictures. So we tried to crop them and remove it, however, it being a new camera we have been unsuccessful with this task. Wes suggested that we send you the story ourselves so that in hopes you could crop the date off, and publish the beautiful pictures with our little story.

Friday, August 7, 2009 at small farm ditch along Route 220 entering into Picture Rocks in Lycoming County.

If you have any questions please contact me or phone us at 570-772-4670. Please find the pictures below.

Sincerely,
Chris and Tessa Maneval

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: White Ibis Eudocimus albus

Date of Sighting: 7 August 2009 to 7 August 2009

County : LYCOMING

Location : PICTURE ROCKS

Observer(s): Chris Maneval, Tessa Maneval, Wes Egli, David Ferry

Date of Submission: 2009

Submitted by: Chris Maneval, Wes Egli, David Ferry

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	
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: 7/6

Signature (Secretary)

Date:

11/6/09