PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

8 February 2001

Peter Robinson
P. O. Box 482
1336 Broadway
Hanover, PA 17331

Dear Peter,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Glossy Ibis near Spring Grove on 29 September 1994, the Gyrfalcon at York on 16 February 1999, and the Sedge Wren at Gettysburg on 6 June 1996. After careful review, the committee regrets that it is unable to accept these records.

The ibis was accepted as a *Plegadis* without species designation. A majority of committee members felt that the bird was most likely a Glossy but that the "lack of noticeable white patch at the base of the bill" is not diagnostic from a White-faced Ibis in the autumn.

Two members voted to accept the Gyrfalcon, but the majority had doubts. Most troubling was a belief that a "decent look" at a gray-morph bird would have revealed dark and light gray bands on the tail and at least a suggestion of a moustachial mark on the side of the face.

Two members also voted to accept the wren, but the majority declined feeling that more details were necessary for conclusive identification. One valuable item would have been a description of the song. In addition the bird was described as not having a white eye stripe and undertail coverts, but the description did not indicate what appearance those portions of the plumage *did* have. Like Marsh Wren, a Sedge Wren does have a whitish though less distinct eyebrow, and both species' undertail coverts appear similarly colored depending on the subspecies and the lighting conditions. As a result, the majority felt that Marsh Wren was not eliminated with certainty.

The committee emphasizes that non-acceptance does not mean that the bird was not the species reported, but rather that the committee believes the documentation submitted does not support the identification conclusively. We hope that this will not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rarities you may find in the future.

Finally, the committee apologizes for the unacceptably long delay before all members were able to vote on the record. Circumstances beyond our control caused the problem, and we believe that we are back on a timely track.

095-02-1994

P. O. Box 482
1336 Broadway
Hanover, PA 17331
17 March 1999

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
C/O Frank Haas
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555-9726

Dear PORC:

The following belated report is based upon my own notes, made at the time of the observation, offered now in case no one else submitted documentation, or in case the additional documentation is of some benefit.

Species: Glossy Ibis (Adult)

Date/Time: 29 September 1994, 8:15 AM - 9:45 AM

Location: Menges Mills Restored Wetland, Colonial Valley Road, just west of Spring Grove, York County, PA

Weather: 60 degrees F, partly cloudy, fairly windy

Observer: Peter Robinson (and others)

Optics: Bausch & Lomb Elite 8x42; Bausch & Lomb Balscope Sr. 20x

Observation: "Medium sized" wading bird that was very dark overall, with long downward curving bill. The head, back, breast, and belly were all very dark color. The legs were dark. There was no noticeable white color at the base of the bill.

Comments: Karen Lippy (Hanover) went to see the bird on 28 September 1994 after one of the two Codorus Duck & Goose Club people (who created the restored wetland) reported seeing

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a "strange bird" for the "past 2 weeks". Several others saw it also. I saw the bird 29 September 1994, but did not find it when I returned 1 October 1994. The lack of noticeable white patch at the base of the bill would seem to eliminate White-faced Ibis.

Sincerely,

Peter Robinson

Peter Robinson
717.632.8462
peterrobins@hotmail.com

Record No.: 095-02-1994

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation- Round One

Species: Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)

Date of Sighting: 29 September 1994 to 29 September 1994
Location: MENGES MILLS WETLAND
County: YORK
Observer(s): Peter Robinson

Date of Submission: 1999
Submitted by: Peter Robinson
Written Description Yes Photo No Specimen No Recording No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
D. Couchman				X				
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess					X			
R. Ickes				X				
J. McWilliams				X				
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald						X		
TOTALS			1	3	1	1		1
DECISION				X				

Comments: 1/4/2

Accepted as plegadis species

Signature (Secretary): [signature] Date: 10/22/00