

095-01 -1997

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)
Cumberland County

May 6, 1997

On Tuesday Morning, May 6, 1997, I observed a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) on the Big Spring Fish and Game Association's property, northwest of Newville, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

Description:

The body - chocolate brown, wings - glossy black, bill - long and curved - dark bone with pinkish tones, legs - dark with pinkish tones, eye - dark, face - white (or light colored) boarder above and below the eyes to the bill, white goes up and over top of the base of the bill, but is not prominent behind the eye. The skin color a the base of the bill is dark inside the light area. In flight the underparts appeared purplish-brown and the underwings were black. Feet trailed out beyond tail.

Discussion:

Glossy Ibis is not necessarily a rare species in Pennsylvania. Because of its similarity to White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*), a species expected to occur in the state, Glossy Ibis sightings need to be documented. White-faced can be ruled out on this bird by the pattern and color of the facial skin bordering the base of the bill. On White-faced the area at the base of the bill would be red in color and the white area, which is actually feathering on White-faced would be wider and be prominent behind the eye.

These observations were made in good light, with Zeiss 10x40 binoculars and a Kowa TSN-2 spotting scope with zoom eyepiece. This was my third observation of Glossy Ibis in Cumberland County. I have had extensive experience with this species in several Atlantic coastal states and I have observed White-faced Ibises in both Colorado and Texas.

References:

Kaufman, Kenn. 1990 *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, MA
National Geographic Society. 1987. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, 2nd ed. Nation
Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.

Submitted by:

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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Date of Sighting: 6 May 1997 to 6 May 1997

Location: BIG SPRING FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION: NEWVILLE

County: CUMBERLAND

Observer(s): Don Henise

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Don Henise

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

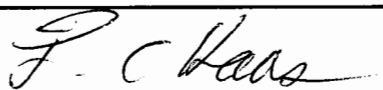
Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
K. Parkes			X					
R. Ickes			X					
P. Hess				X				
J. McWilliams			X					
T. Floyd			X					
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

4-19-99