

24 April, 1999

John G. Fedak
221 Washington St.
New Bethlehem, PA 16242

Dear John,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Glossy Ibis you saw at the John Heinz NWR on 26 August, 1997. After careful review we regret that we are unable to accept this record. Several committee members felt that the description was too brief in detail and did not rule out the possibility of White-faced Ibis. Others thought this was probably a correct record but not beyond reasonable doubt. This does not mean of course that the bird was not a Glossy Ibis, merely that the details did not allow for a definite determination.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

For the Committee,
Roy A. Ickes, Chairperson

Record # 095-02-1997

SENECA ROCKS AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRD SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION GUIDE

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of rare or unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all except as a guide. Attach additional sheets as necessary. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. The following checklist can be used to remind yourself of items that you want to include in this report. Not all of these points will be seen, nor are they all necessary to correctly identify a species, but not including something you saw lessens the value of your documentation. PLEASE REPORT WHAT WAS SEEN, NOT WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN.

SIZE, SHAPE, AND PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

- Give size compared to a common bird
 Shape (warbler, thrush, hawk, etc.)
 Head: colors and pattern
 Eye: color, ring, stripe, lore, brow
 Bill: length, color
 Legs: color, length, toes (number, type)
 Upperparts: nape (neck), back, rump
 Tail: colors, shape, pattern, length
 Underparts: throat, breast, belly, flanks, vent
 Wings: colors, wingbars, length, wing linings, shape
 Parts of bird that couldn't be seen

BEHAVIOR:

- Posture
 Feeding method
 Flight pattern
 Vocalization
 Preening or sleeping
 Other species present
 Interactions with other birds
 Nesting (building, brooding, etc.)

NUMBER ,SEX, AGE:

- Number of birds
 Sex by plumage or behavior
 Age by plumage or behavior

LOCATION:

- Place name (town, park, SGL, etc.)
 County and State
 Habitat (field, woods, water, plants, etc.)

CONDITIONS:

- Time of day
 Temperature
 Sky/cloud cover
 Precipitation/snow cover
 Water (depth, waves, % ice)
 Wind (speed, direction)
 Moon phase
 Sun (location in relation to you and bird)
 Length of sighting
 Distance to bird
 Optics (binos, scope, power of each)
 Experience with this species, years birding
 How were similar species eliminated?
 Field guide used (during and after sighting)
 Was description written from notes made during observation, notes made after observation, or memory? Was field guide used prior to writing field notes?
 Other observers (are they reporting?)
 Sketch or photograph (sketches, no matter how basic, are extremely useful)

SPECIES Glossy Ibis DATE SIGHTED 8-26-97

SIZE, SHAPE, AND PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

close in size to the snowy egrets near
 it long decurved bill, when flying, neck was extended
 dark brown, brownish red and legs + bill, Brown eye
 very tiny white line around bill and eye, not
 complete. The color was uniform.

BEHAVIOR: when first seen in Philadelphia county, it was flying and was mostly a dark bird with a long downward bill, neck was not snaked like in a heron. Then it was seen in Delaware county feeding on the flats

NUMBER, SEX, AND AGE: I think one, adult

LOCATION: Tinecum National Wildlife Refuge (John Heron)
first seen flying over pond in Phila. Co and then seen feeding in Delaware county.

CONDITIONS, TIME, WEATHER, OPTICS, EXPERIENCE:
1st sighting about 3:30 pm 2nd about 4:15 pm The weather was hot (80's) sunny with no breeze. I was using my Kowa scope TSU2 and my Leica binoculars 8x42. I have seen glassy + white faced ibis before

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, DATE OF WRITE-UP:

John G. Fedak
221 WASHINGTON ST.
NEW BETHLEHEM
PA 16242

8-26-97

814 275 4086

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Date of Sighting: 26 August 1997 to 26 August 1997

Location: JOHN HEINZ NWR AT TINICUM

County: PHILADELPHIA

Observer(s): John Fedak

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: John Fedak

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			4	2		1		
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

4-19-99