









# 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. Fill in all relevant fields and then click on the "Submit by Email" button at the end of the form to send it to the PORC Secretary.

**NOTE:** The fields scroll down as you type to permit as much text as needed.  
The **RESET** button clears all of the fields if you wish to start over with a blank form.

Species (Common and Scientific Name): White-faced Ibis (Plegadis chihi)

Subspecies, if known

Number of individuals Sex(es) 1

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): Non-breeding plumage

Date and Time of Observation March 21, 2010 3:00 Pm to 4:50 Pm

Location (City, Borough, Township) Southampton Twp

Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road) Intersection of Mud Level Rd and Duncan Rd. Pond located about 300 yds northwest of intersection.

## Observer Reporting:

Name Franklin Haas

Address State Zip 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Pa 17555

E-mail (Optional) fbhaas@ptd.net

Phone (Optional) 717-445-9609

Other Observers (Only Those Who Saw and Identified the Bird with You): Vern Gauthier, Ramsey Corry, Barbara Haas, and others

Habitat (E.g. Mowed Field, Woodland Edge, Any other details) Pond surrounded by flooded cornfields

Distance to Bird (Specify feet, yards, etc.) 150 ft

Viewing Conditions (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) Thin overcast, occasional sun.

Optical Equipment Used Questar 80X

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 an obvious ibis. Body size about that of nearby wigeon. Long legs. Long decurved bill. Dark overall color. Red eye. No obvious facial markings, so bird was either first winter or non-breeding adult. The lighting and distance made it difficult to ascertain exact plumage colors for more definitive aging. See photos.

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

The bird was actively feeding and occasionally preening most of the time under observation.

Vocalizations

Supporting evidence if any: (Check all that apply)

- Photograph       Video Recording       Audio Recording       Drawing

**Photographer/recorder/illustrator:**

Name   
Address   
City State Zip   
E-mail (Optional)   
Phone (Optional)

**Please send a copy of the photograph, drawing, or recording to:**

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee  
613 Howard Ave.  
West Chester, Pa 19380  
Nickpulcinella@comcast.net

**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)

Discussion – anything else  
relevant to the observation that  
will aid the committee in  
evaluating it:

Previous experience with this  
and/or similar species

Are you positive of your  
identification? (Why or why not)

**References Consulted:**

During Observation

After Observation

Date of this Report:  (Click on the box and select date from calendar)

Following is the description of the afternoon of Sunday March 21st from approximately 12:15 to 5:00 p.m. near the intersection of Mudlevel and Duncan Road Shippensburg.

While driving north on Duncan road (Shippensburg, Cumberland County) approaching Mudlevel Road I noticed a bird out in one of the pools in the field that was dark and in the basic shape and size of an Ibis, including a long downward curved bill. I parked on Duncan and set up my scope (Bushnell Elite, 20-60 x 80) to look at the bird that was 200 to 250 yards away. The sun was such that I could not make out any detail and made the assumption that it was a Glossy Ibis. I called Chad Kauffman and asked him if we would post it on PABirds.

Another birder, Dave Grove showed up looking for the Black-headed Gull that had been reported the previous day. We saw some gulls landing to the west fields off of Mudlevel Road so I joined him for about 10 minutes to go look at those birds. I then drove back to the Ibis, this time parking on Mudlevel Road which gave me a different view of the bird and brought me a little closer (approximately 150 yards) with better lighting. Still assuming it was a Glossy Ibis I noticed first off that the bird had a gray bill and a plain face and fine white streaking or spotting on the top of the head down the back of the neck. I did not remember taking note of what the leg color was. My assumption was that the bird was either an adult not in breeding plumage or a first year bird.

The bird was feeding and was thus bobbing its head down to the ground and back up again. One of the times it lifted its head up a flash of red came from its eye. I was wondering if the eye was really red or if it was caused by the way the sun hit it when it happened again. Over the next 5 minutes I noticed that at certain angles that the eye looked red. I thought I remembered from Sibley that only White-faced Ibis' had red irises. It is at this point that I consulted Sibley for the first time. He did in fact state that the red iris was diagnostic for WFIB. What I was looking at seemed to match up best with his first year bird illustration that indicated that the dark iris turned red by February.

I called Chad Kauffman back and asked him to post that I might have a possible WFIB. He said he was unable as he was away from a computer. I did not know at the time that he called Frank and Barb Hass who headed out when they received the call. I also called Ramsay Koury who said he could be there in 45 minutes. I then asked Dave Grove who came back by to look in my scope to tell me what color the eyes of the bird was. He too saw them as sometimes dark and sometimes red depending on if it was in the shadow or in the sun. I looked at Sibley again and noted how the Glossy Ibis had two lateral white stripes on its face and the WFIB one. This proved of little help at the time as I could not make out any white stripping at what from my vantage point seemed a plain face.



At that point I had to leave for a half hour and on my way I called Bill Oyler to see if he could come and take a look. He met me there when I returned and thankfully the bird was still there. He too verified that it seems like the eye was red at times and other times just dark depending on the lighting. After about 10 minutes Ramsay Koury came and set up his scope but the question still remained if the bird's eye was actually red or if there was a lighting issue involved.

About another 15 minutes later Frank and Barb Hass arrived. After they were there for about 10 minutes looking through their Questar scope we all were satisfied that the eye was indeed red, but thought to be safe we should try to procure some pictures with Frank's camera which we eventually did after receiving permission from the landowner for Frank to walk out into the field to get closer. The pictures showed the eye to be red. I did eventually see a vague white line running horizontally from the base of the beak to the top of the eye. Who's scope I saw it through I do not remember, but it was not my own.

In all approximately 12 - 14 birders observed the bird before it flew off to the northeast at 5:00 p.m. Some of the other birders included Dave Grove, Barb Hass, Frank Hass, Ramsay Koury, Alex Lamoreaux, Bill Oyler, Dan Snell, and Dave Wilton and a few others whose names I do not know.

Vernon Gauthier  
Newville  
Cumberland County  
(717) 385-9526

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Round One**

Species: White-faced Ibis Plegadis chihi

Date of Sighting: 21 March 2010 to 21 March 2010

County : CUMBERLAND

Location : SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP

Observer(s): Vern Gauthier, m.observers

Date of Submission: 2010

Submitted by: Vern Gauthier, Frank Haas

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								
<del>B. Coulter</del> D. DeLuca	X							
<del>B. Coulter</del> B. Coulter	X							
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	6							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 6/0

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 10/1/2010