

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2014-05-27 22:22:40
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Patrick Millar
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<b>Phone</b>	6105705095
<b>Observer's Address</b>	Street Address: 653 Scroggy Road City: Oxford State / Province: PENNSYLVANIA Postal / Zip Code: 19363 Country: United States
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	White-faced Ibis
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Plegadis Chihi
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	Adult breeding
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	05-20-2014 7:40 PM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S18491259">http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S18491259</a>
<b>County</b>	Chester
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Coatesville
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Approximately intersection of Route 82 and Route 841
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	N 39.915070, W -75.814621
<b>Habitat</b>	Wet meadow, long grass.
<b>Distance to bird</b>	40 yards
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Clear, early evening, fading light. Generally good.
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Canon SX50HS zoom camera. Nikon binoculars.
<b>Description</b>	I observed what first appeared to be a flock consisting of only Glossy Ibis. The birds were all actively feeding with heads down in the grass and tails in the air while moving up and down a long depression in the field. Occasionally a single bird would raise its head. One of these birds, which I successfully photographed, was the White-faced Ibis.

Pictures are contained in the eBird report referenced here. There was no noticeable difference in behavior between any of the birds. They continued to feed in the same manner the whole time that I was there (a little over 15 minutes).

As noted in the eBird report:

I took numerous pictures over the course of 15 minutes. At first I did not notice the White-faced Ibis as the image was too small in my camera viewfinder - I was concentrating on getting a good set of record shots for the flock. However, after zooming in on it, I noticed this was clearly a different bird and reported to the Chesco Birds list that I had one Ibis with a whiter face. Later in the evening I uploaded my pictures to the PA Birds group on Facebook and also reported the sighting to the PA BIRDS email list. Later, I heard that Holly Merker had attempted to locate the flock around 8pm but it had moved on.

The pictures below are the better ones I took - and are the same ones I posted to the PA Birds facebook group. These were taken in fairly low light, so are grainy. However, the white mask of the White-faced Ibis is clearly visible and distinguishable from the bluer mask of the Glossy Ibis. Also, the reddish color of the eye and the lores is clearly visible in the pictures. After examining my bird guides and checking online for sample ID pictures I am confident that this is a White-faced Ibis.

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

The bird spent most of the time that I observed it feeding. During this time its head was obscured by the long grass as it probed for food. It was possible to see movement in its neck as it fed. It also took occasional steps as it moved around. During this time all that was visible was the upper part of its legs, the lower part of its neck and its bodies. There was no significant difference in plumage between the White-faced Ibis and the Glossy Ibis in the light conditions that I observed them under.

**Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)**

When I first photographed the birds I did not notice the difference between the White-faced Ibis and the other birds. The camera viewfinder does not offer enough detail. I was concentrating on documenting the flock. As I reviewed the pictures by zooming in on my camera, I noticed that one bird had a whiter face. On more careful review it was clear that this was not a Glossy Ibis. I reported to the Chesco Birds GroupMe list that I had found one with a whiter face but waited until I got home and could view the pictures on a larger screen to confirm.

As you will see from the pictures in the eBird report, the bird has a clear white "mask" as compared to the blueish mask on the Glossy Ibis. It also clearly has a reddish eye and red coloration at the base of its beak / its lores. This convinced me to send out a report on the PA BIRDS email list and also to report on the Facebook PA Birders group.

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

Two other observers also witnessed this flock but did not see the White-faced Ibis. They were Al Guarente and Andrew Leidig. I consider myself fortunate to have captured the bird in photographs as the flock was actively feeding and kept their heads down for most of the time that I was observing. The location is at the side of a fairly busy road,

so it is not possible to observe for long periods of time. I remained there for 15 minutes but at that point felt that I needed to move on.

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

I am positive based on the photographic record and comparison of it with other positively identified pictures online and in field guides. The field marks are clear and consistent with White-faced Ibis.

**During**

iBird North, Sibley (both on iPhone)

**After**

Sibley (paper copy), Cornell All About Birds (online)

**Supporting evidence (check all that apply)**

Photograph

**Upload images, audio, video or drawings**



[IMG\\_2582.JPG](#)

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