

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2020-05-01 22:22:59
Observer's Name	Bill Etter
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Phone	2159643613
Observer's Address	407 S Cigar Rd Northampton PA 18067 United States
Names of additional observers	Billy Weber, Devich Farbotnik, Matt Sabatine, Rick Wiltraut
Species (Common Name)	White-faced Ibis
Species (Scientific Name)	Plegadis chihi
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult, full alternate
Observation Date and Time	05-01-2020 10:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/pa/checklist/S68188448
County	Northampton
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Easton (Palmer Twp)
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Retention pond along Nulton Ave
GPS coordinates of sighting	(40.6813327, -75.2735621)
Habitat	Retention pond in suburban residential development
Distance to bird	100-200 yards or less
Viewing conditions	Clear day, part cloudy
Optical equipment used	Nikon spotting scope

Description	<p>Copied from my eBird report:</p> <p>This ibis was an adult in high breeding plumage, fortunately, making the ID fairly easy for the northeast US. Feathered white border surrounded the face, extending and connecting completely behind the eye. The bare parts of the face were reddish, as opposed to gray. Legs were red, which can be seen to some extent in a few photos. Eye was red at certain angles, depending on sunlight. Overall, plumage of body quite bright even in indirect sunlight; to my eye, more pink in hue overall than the darker purple and green tones of Glossy Ibis.</p>
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	<p>Wading about the edges of the retention pond, feeding actively and stopping to preen briefly from time to time. Just after 11AM it flew off suddenly, headed east toward city of Easton.</p>
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	<p>See description above, which separates this bird from the more expected but still unusual for here Glossy Ibis. Extent of white feathered (not bare) border around face, pinkish (not gray) bare parts of face, and red eye eliminate adult Glossy Ibis. Red legs and overall light red to pink cast, as opposed to purple cast to the plumage also indicate White-faced, though these points are a bit more subject to the eye of the witness, perhaps.</p>
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	<p>Bird was first found a bit earlier about two miles away by Jon Mularczyk, who obtained very conclusive photos of relevant ID points. Billy Weber somehow quickly relocated it here and spread the word. Four or five others were able to see the bird and probably all obtained much better photos because they have real cameras. Photos within my eBird list were obtained via freehand iPhone through scope.</p>
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	<p>Yes</p>
During	<p>None</p>
After	<p>Took a look at the “dark ibises” chapter in K. Kaufmann’s “Advanced</p>
Click to edit	<p>PORC-webform00158</p>