

095A-01 -1996

PLEGADIS SPECIES

Location: Presque Isle State Park

Date: October 6, 1996

Time: 10:30 to 10:45 AM

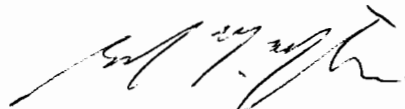
Weather: mostly clear, wind southwesterly to about 10 mph

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular and Kowa TSN 4 Spotting Scope at variable power

Viewing distance: about 400 yards

Details of sighting & description: I was scanning Region I (the south end of Gull Point) when I spotted an all dark ibis standing next to a flock of about 30 or so Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*). Since the ibis was entirely dark it was easy to place it in the genus *Plegadis*. The ibis was smaller bodied than the Canada Geese, but stood as tall as them. The bill was long and strongly decurved at the outer third of its length. The head was small and rounded and the neck was long and was held in a slightly curved position. The neck appeared to be about the same length as the bill. The tail was short and the folded wings extended to the end of the tail or slightly beyond. The legs were long and heron-like. As mentioned earlier, the entire bird was dark including the legs and bill, almost blackish, and when the bird was in the sun a glossy green sheen could be seen across the mantle. I could see no evidence of white around the base of the bill and because the bird was so far away, it was impossible to see iris color. When it flew, the entire bird appeared very long and thin. When in flight, with the legs held out straight beyond the tail and the neck stretched out to its full extent, the bird looked like a small crane. The wing beats were fast and shallow and when it would glide, the wings were held in an arched position, which was especially noticeable when the bird was viewed head on. The ibis circled the point twice and then flew off in a northeasterly direction following the shoreline. Even when the bird was more than a mile away, it was easily identified as an ibis by the long decurved bill, long thin neck, trailing legs, and shallow wing beats. I was able to get several distant photographs of the ibis before it flew away. This is the fifth *Plegadis* I have seen in Erie County. I am very familiar with both *Plegadis* species. I have seen many Glossy Ibis along the Atlantic Coast and many White-faced Ibis in the west. See photograph.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Plegadis

Date of Sighting: sp. (Plegadis sp.)

Location: 6 October 1996 to 6 October 1996

County: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

Observer(s): ERIE

Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission:

Submitted by: 1996

Written Description: Jerry McWilliams

Photo: YES

Specimen: YES

Recording: NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes	X							
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe	X							
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS	6		1					
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

8-16-97