



095A-01-2006

Documentation for the PORC

Species: Plegadis sp. (Almost certainly a Glossy Ibis)

Name: Cameron Rutt

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Phone Number: 215-453-9585

Other Observers: August Mirabella

Location: Penn Warner Club, east of Tullytown, southern Bucks County

Date and Length of time observed: July 20, 2006. The bird was observed for about a half hour in the mid-morning and was still present when we left the area an hour later.

Optics: The bird was seen through both my Swarovski 8.5 by 42 EL binoculars and my Swarovski ST-80 scope with a 20x-60x zoom eyepiece. At the closest distance, we were probably only about 75-100 meters away from the bird.

Habitat and Behavior: This ibis was observed feeding in a series of shallow "ponds" that were surrounded with some vegetation. The ponds have been created by construction and later filled with excess rain water. This leaves the margins of the ponds with an abundance of soil/mud. August and I primarily observed the ibis feeding during the course of the observation period although it did make a short flight once.

Weather: The morning began with overcast skies and scattered light rain but as we were watching the bird the sun emerged and the temperatures became much more unpleasant. However, this did provide ideal light conditions for viewing the ibis.

Description: This individual was quickly assigned as a plegadis species by its long legs, fairly large size, overall dark coloration, and longish decurved bill. Unfortunately, this individual could not be assigned to the species level because it was a juvenile. In the sunlight, it had glossy green wings that appeared black otherwise with a kind of droopy (floppy tertials) look to them. The wingtips extended just beyond the short tail. Its underparts were a consistent sooty gray to dark brown coloration overall. The ibis had a dark blackish coloration to the legs.

Only a faint pale line bordered the facial skin, mostly between the eye and the bill. The iris was dark and both the facial skin and the base of the bill was sooty colored. Interestingly, the majority of the rest of the bill was a bubblegum pink. The tip of the bill as well as a "spot" on both mandibles half way from the tip to the base were also sooty colored. The bill was also considerably shorter and less decurved compared to a typical ibis which is consistent with juvenile plegadis species. This individual did contain a few other white markings on the head and neck which were intriguing. It had a series of white barring on the upper neck or lower throat in addition to a white line that extended from eye to eye over the bird's crown. This mark was especially noticeable and bright and appeared "v-like" if seen head on with the point of the "v" extending posteriorly.

Similar Species: As this bird was a juvenile and so was just born this summer, it all but had to have come from nearby coastal Glossy Ibis breeding grounds. But since it could not be pinned to a species in the field, the closest looking bird to this genus could only be a juvenile White Ibis. Young White Ibis have an all orange bill, orange/pink legs and white underparts, all of which eliminate this species for consideration.

Note: Attached is a picture that was digiscoped with a Sony Cyber-shot camera. The pictures have not been touched up at all. Also, with the high incidence of sightings for this genus in southern Bucks County it seems that at least plegadis species could soon become exempt for the county. I'm sure this species is an annual spring and fall visitor, especially to the superb habitat and location that exists at the Penn Warner Club

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Round One**

Species: Plegadis, sp. (Plegadis, sp.)

Date of Sighting: 20 July 2006 to 20 July 2006

Location: PENN-WARNER CLUB

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): Cameron Rutt, A. Mirabella

Date of Submission: 2006

Submitted by: Cameron Rutt

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

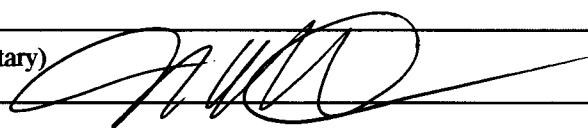
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

7/20/07