

## **Rare Bird Report Pennsylvania (Montgomery County )**

**Species:** White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

**Number of birds – 1 (adult)**

**Date** October 17, 2015 (continued to October 21, 2015)

**Reporter / only observer:** Kevin F. Crilley

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**Other observers 10/18-21/2015:** George Franchois, Carl Williams, Devitch Farbotnik, August and Judy Mirabella, Len & Judy Hillegas, Diana Rudloff, Brian Henderson, *mobs*.

**Date Report prepared:** 20 November , 2015

**Location of observation:** Knight Lake, Green Lane Park, Green Lane PA 18054

**Habitat:** shallow waters of 26 acre lake and surrounding trees on shoreline

**Sighting Duration, Conditions:** I found the bird in fading light at 5:50 p.m. EDT and observed it at a distance of 50 meters.

On October 17, 2015 I observed the bird for up to 10 minutes as it probed in shallow water and alternately flew onto fallen tree surrounded by water.

**Optics:** Zeiss 7x42 binoculars (initially)

**References consulted:** National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of N.A . 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

**Description:** medium-sized long-legged wading bird. Similar in size to Snowy Egret or Little Blue Heron. Plumage entirely white, except for black primary feathers. Bare parts- legs and bill red in color, bill distinctly de-curved.

**Behavior:** on 10/17, the bird was feeding in shallow water with probing motion , alternately hopped/flew onto fallen tree surrounded by water. Upon returning morning of 10/18, the bird was observed with binoculars and Leica 77 mm APO spotting scope as it walked in water at edge of lake and probed in water. It caught and subsequently swallowed several bullhead catfish approx. 3-4" long.

**Elimination of Similar Species:** other Ibis species (Glossy and White- faced) would have dark, glossy brown/green plumage. Other small/medium sized white wading birds (Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, and immature Little Blue Heron) have straight, (not de-curved) bills of black, orange, and blue with black tip, respectively.

**Experience with this species:** I have observed large numbers of white ibis in Florida& North Carolina (including adult birds , I have observed immature white ibis on several occasions in Virginia and Delaware.

**Birding experience:** I have been an active birder since 1975. I have birded in Arizona, Texas, Utah, Colorado, California, Florida, North and South Carolina, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, in addition to Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.

**Level of Confidence in my Identification of bird :** 100%

**Photos:** I did not photograph the bird, but know that George Franchois, Devitch Farbotnik, August Mirabella and others did capture photos on 10/18/15

**Submitted by:**

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