

**RECORD #: 4-A-06**

IDAHO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

SPECIES:

Glossy Ibis

REPORTER:

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OTHER OBSERVERS:

none

DATE REPORT PREPARED:

6/3/06

DATE SIGHTING OCCURRED:

6/3/06

LOCALITY OF OBSERVATION:

At the first intersection south of the main marshes at Market Lake WMA. The north south road ends at the north end of the main marshes to the north and leads to the town of Roberts in the south. The east/west road leads to headquarters for Market Lake WMA to the east. Bird was in a plowed field that was being flooded north east of the intersection and within 100 yards of the intersection.

HABITAT:

flooded dirt farm field

CONDITIONS:

bright overcast with light wind. Scope used is Swarovski 80mm HD @ up to 60x.

DID YOU TAKE NOTES?:

No, not at all

DID YOU CONSULT FIELD GUIDE OR OTHER REFERENCES?:

No, not at all

WHAT GUIDE(S) OR REFERENCE(S) DID YOU CONSULT?:

#### DESCRIPTION:

Adult Plegadis Ibis with plumage typical of this genus. Legs were medium gray with red knees. Facial skin blueish with light blue lines on edges of facial skin. Light blue lines did not extend behind eye and did not have any hint of reddish or purpleish coloration.

#### BEHAVIOR:

Foraging, mostly on earthworms, and preening.

#### HOW AND WHEN DID YOU POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE BIRD, AND WHAT CLINCHED THE IDENTIFICATION FOR YOU?

When I got the scope out and had a good look at the facial pattern.

#### HOW DID YOU ELIMINATE SIMILAR SPECIES, AND WHAT WERE THEY?

The only other species that could be confused with Glossy Ibis is White-faced Ibis. Points that eliminate White-faced Ibis include:

-Iris color dark, not red as in White-faced. Immature White-faced have a dark iris but these birds were clearly adults in full breeding plumage.

-Leg color, gray with red knees consistent with Glossy but wrong for White-faced. Transitional plumages may show similar pattern (I don't know that they do but I can't say for sure that they don't) but again, these are obviously in full breeding plumage.

-Facial pattern, light blue edges on blue facial skin with entirely dark feathers surrounding facial skin and no white behind eye is diagnostic for Glossy Ibis. White color of edges around facial skin on White-faced is on the feathers, not the facial skin, and extends entirely around eye. Facial skin is red on White-faced. Some White-faced, including one immature individual present in same field as these individuals, show very thin white edge around facial skin but it still extends around eye and is in the feathers not on the facial skin. Facial skin still show some reddish coloration. This facial pattern is all wrong for any age or plumage White-faced Ibis and is entirely typical for Glossy.

#### EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES (AND SIMILAR SPECIES):

Previous experience with Glossy Ibis limited to several sightings during 2006 but I have seen thousands of White-faced over the years and studied details of facial pattern on hundreds during the last two years in both spring and fall. I have recently seen two Glossy Ibis at Camas NWR on 4/28 and a single individual on 5/5.

#### GENERAL BIRDING EXPERIENCE:

13 years

#### WERE PHOTO(S), VIDEO, AND/OR AUDIO OBTAINED BY YOU?:

None