

WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species: Number: (leave blank)
Location: Date: Time:
Bird Seen: To: Age/Sex:

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings WILL NOT BE RETURNED but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)

Wading birds with long thin legs and a long curved bill. Much larger than a nearby Solitary Sandpiper and smaller than the nearby Canada Geese.

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)

Breeding plumage. Green, purple, and reddish-brown feathers could all be seen.

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:

None

Description of behavior:

They were very active, feeding and moving back and forth as they poked and probed at the ground. Twice they flew as a group and circled and relocated to spots a little further out.

Habitat: (General and Specific)

The ibises were found in and around a backwater area of the Ohio River. When I first saw them they were on land right by the closest edge of the water. They were feeding in an area with short grass and exposed mud. Then they flew to an island in the backwater that had a lot of dead cattails and were foraging amongst the undergrowth there.

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)

I was always above the birds viewing them from a vantage point on a hill. When I first arrived they were no more than 50 yards away and visible and identifiable with the naked eye. All other observers saw them at a greater distance after they flew to a new spot. I looked at them closer with a pair of Vortex Razor UHD binoculars. I also looked at them through various models of scopes after other people arrived. The lighting was good as it was partly cloudy out and the birds were lit from the left side.

Previous experience with this species:

I have family in Florida that I visit every year and I always see Glossy Ibises when I'm there. So although I've never seen the species locally I still have seen them many times.

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

I've never seen a White-faced Ibis but these birds had very little white and it was always in front of / between their eyes. The white never wrapped around their eyes or went behind the eyes at all. Other observers who had seen White-faced Ibises also agreed that this group was Glossy.

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)

If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report.

Jason White [redacted]
Terry Bronson [redacted]
Michael Schramm [redacted]
Jon Benedetti [redacted]

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and especially how did these influence this description:

Just to be sure that they weren't White-faced I looked at pictures on my ibird Pro app and another birder had a Sibley guide that we used for comparisons. But I initially identified them as Glossy. The other materials confirmed it.

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

The next morning

Name:

Daniel Jonas

Address:

[REDACTED]

Date:

4/29/22

Signature:

[REDACTED]

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