

White-faced Ibis

Unanimously Accepted 7-0

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: The bird was well described and observed by several experienced birders. Fortunately, the report was accompanied by several photographs which clearly depict the field marks that distinguish this species from the very similar Glossy Ibis. These include the relatively bold white border around the reddish face, a grayish bill, and more red legs.

CM2: This is a well-documented report of a species that is difficult to distinguish from Glossy Ibis. Furthermore, hybrids between the two species are not that uncommon. In this case, the visible facial skin/feathering pattern and soft parts coloration all lead to a White-faced Ibis ID. Several western experts were consulted and all agreed that a hybrid was unlikely. Therefore, a vote FOR this record is warranted in my opinion.

CM3: This is an accurate description and clear images of a White-faced Ibis. The wide white feathering outlining the caudal, dorsal, and ventral aspect of the eye helps distinguish it from the Glossy Ibis.

CM4: It's interesting that the last documented sighting in WV of the White-faced Ibis was also at Greenbottom WMA, Cabell County (10/25/2011). The excellent photos by Josh Holland submitted with this report were extremely important to the confirmation of this species. It was fortunate that the bird sighted was an adult, and the white facial border around the face and reddish face was present in the photos. This is outstanding photo documentation by our competent WV birders. I support this record for submission for the state list

CM5: I vote to include the White-faced Ibis seen at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area in the State List. The report differentiates the observed ibis from White and Glossy. This report included written, photographic and collaboration evidence. The photographs submitted show a White-faced Ibis in Alternate (breeding) plumage. The photographs show dark chestnut-maroon with metallic green and bronze sheen of the head, neck, upper back and wing coverts. White feathers are apparent on head from under corner of the bill, wrapping around the eye and separating forehead from face. These characteristics confirm identification. Therefore, this report meets the standard set by the by-laws for inclusion of the White-faced Ibis on the official State List.

CM6: Great photo evidence.

CM7: Once again, the photos tell the tale. The long, curved bill, stocky body with glossy, metallic sheen and medium-sized legs (for a wading bird) indicate an Ibis. The reddish legs, pink facial skin around the base of the bill and white patch encircling the bill area are all indicators of

the White-faced Ibis. By comparison, the Glossy Ibis would not have the pink wash with complete white patch around the bill, and the legs would be grayish in color. The White Ibis does not have the metallic sheen feathers or reddish legs and can immediately be eliminated as a possibility. The bird is also in the right habitat, a wetland, and in breeding plumage. The date of the sighting (4/27) indicates that the bird was likely in migration from Mexico to the breeding grounds and was blown off course to the east.