

## White-faced Ibis – Mason County

Unanimously Accepted to the State List (7-0)

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: Although it can be difficult distinguishing between White-faced Ibis and Glossy Ibis, fortunately the photographs show a bird with bold white feathering around the face, confirming this species and eliminating Glossy Ibis. In addition, the bird was seen by an experienced birder who would likely understand the differences between the two species and know the field marks to look for in order to make a proper identification.

CM2: Excellent description of the bird and photographic evidence from an experienced birder. The white facial pattern, red eye and reddish legs are diagnostic for White faced Ibis and rule out the closest similar species - Glossy Ibis. Two previous sightings of White-faced Ibis have occurred just a few miles from this location.

CM3: This reviewer votes to include on the State List. The observation report included excellent photographic documentation and distinguished from the similar Glossy Ibis. Also, the bird was observed by three birders with experience. As documented in the report the bird was in alternate plumage helping to identify from the Glossy. Immature birds are harder to separate. The WFIB was observed on April 17, 2021 in "Alternate (breeding) plumage, head, neck, upper back, wing coverts, and undersides dark chestnut-maroon with metallic green and bronze sheen. Wings with purplish overtones. Bare facial skin becomes reddish purple. White feathers appear on head separating forehead from face, extending completely around back of eye. Iris reddish brown." (1) These field marks are identifiable in the photographs.

CM4: Good description and definitive images. This bird has a white outline of feathers surrounding the featherless skin rostral/anterior to the eye delineating it from the glossy ibis.

CM5: Excellent write up by the submitter with previous experience noting the pink facial skin, red/pink eye and pink'ish legs as would show when this individual is in breeding plumage. This markings separate this species from Glossy Ibis. Photos are very good to support this record.

CM6: Clear photographs showing diagnostic pattern around face and eyes. This eliminates Glossy Ibis.

CM7: The photos tell the tale, as usual. 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.