

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.
Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.
Glossy ibis: pp 96-97.



GLOSSY IBIS

Family Plataleidae

Species *Plegadis falcinellus*

Common name Glossy Ibis

Status Native

Abundance Rare

Size 600mm (cf sparrow 145mm, White-faced Heron 670mm)

Habitat Shallow fresh-water areas such as the edges of lakes, rivers and swamps

in inland situations.

Worldwide range A regular visitor to New Zealand, probably from Australia. This bird is a cosmopolitan species breeding in a wide belt across the southern Mediterranean, through Afghanistan, northern India, Indonesia and Australia. It wanders into Africa, South America and the eastern United States. Visits to New Zealand frequently occur in the month of November, probably immature birds from the Australian population. Occasionally autumn birds arrive with the Cattle Egret migration and winter over.

New Zealand range Can appear in any locality which has swamps or lakes. However in recent years they have most consistently turned up in the south Auckland area of Rangiriri and Whangamarino, and at Lake Patetonga on the Hauraki Plains. One is also a regular visitor to Travis Wetlands in Christchurch.

Description

Upper and underparts Reddish-brownish with a greenish gloss on the wings.

Bill Olive-brown and markedly curved downwards. **Legs and feet** Olive-brown.

Conspicuous features

- About Cattle Egret size.
- In-flight show long curved bill.
- Fly with neck and legs extended.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Tends to be nervous.
- When feeding they tend to disappear into the grass and rushes.

Where to find – North Island

South Auckland – North Waikato – At Rangiriri during November birds may turn up in the Whangamarino districts. P. 308.

South Auckland – Miranda. P. 302.

Hauraki Plains – At Lake Patetonga birds are regularly seen. P. 308.

Where to find – South Island

Christchurch – Travis wetlands. P. 350.

Canterbury – Lake Ellesmere in Lakeside area out from Leeston. P. 351.

North Otago – All Day Bay Lagoon, south of Oamaru. P. 357.

Southland – Waituna Lagoon east of Invercargill. P. 364.