



Glossy Ibis

Ibis falcinelle

Plegadis falcinellus

The Glossy Ibis is a wading bird. It is dark, with a long neck, long legs, and a long, arched beak. L. 55-65 cm; W. 88-105 cm.

Breeding adult: the plumage is purple brown with green highlights on the wings. The base of the bill is blue with a thin white band around it.

Non-breeding adult: like the breeding adult but the base of the bill is dark. The head and neck are duller brown with white stripes.

Juveniles: It can be distinguished from herons by its black colouring, pink beak with black stripes and yellowish legs.

Voice: the call is a muffled croak "gruuu".

Eggs: laying of 3 to 4 (up to 5 or 6) blue eggs.

Nests: the nest is larger than that of the small Ardeids. It is built from branches and lined with fine twigs, reeds or rushes on top. In reedbeds it is a fairly large platform built with reeds.

Habitat: breeds in freshwater marshes. It nests in colonies, either in trees with other species such as the little egret, or in reed beds.

Similar species: none.

Breeding adult



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Non breeding adult



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Eggs and chick at hatching



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Two weeks old chicks



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Reedbed colonie



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For more details on the developmental stages of chicks, see [the Glossy ibis chick age identification guide](#)