

**WHITE-FACED IBIS  
(PLEGADIS CHIHI)**



*Description*

White-faced ibises are medium-sized wading birds at a total length of 18-22 inches (46-56 cm). The plumage coloration is a dark maroon brown with a metallic green or

bronze sheen. The black bill is long and decurved and the legs are long. During the breeding season, adult birds develop white feathers around the edge of the reddish facial skin and the legs become red.

*Habitat*

This species inhabits shallow marshes containing small islands of emergent vegetation. White-faced ibises will forage in natural wetlands or irrigated agricultural fields for earthworms, insects, and crustaceans. They probe the water and soil with their long bills and use the standing water to wash the soil off of their prey items. In California, nesting occurs in a few scattered locations in the Central Valley where a dense, emergent wetland exists.

*Range/distribution*

White-faced ibises occur throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Photo: George Jameson from URL: <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/i1870id.html>10.

*References*

Ryder, R.A., and D.E. Manry. 1994. White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 130 (A. Poole and F. Gill, Eds.). Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C.: The American Ornithologists' Union.