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SHORT NOTE

GLOSSY IBISES NEAR CHRISTCHURCH

As far as I am aware, the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) has not been previously recorded near Christchurch. I therefore thought my two local records of this species might be of interest.

On 5/9/65 a Glossy Ibis was noticed along the edge of the Heathcote-Avon estuary near the South Brighton School. It was a vigorous feeder. When first seen it was probing with its beak into the saline mud-flats along the water's edge; later it concentrated its activity along the edges of a shallow freshwater stream. In contrast to its ungainly gait, it was a strong flier, with a quick take-off and a rapid wing-beat. There was intermittent gliding.

This ibis was subsequently seen by Miss M. Davis and Alan Wright on 30/9/65; and again by Miss Davis on 12/10/65.

An earlier record is of three Glossy Ibises which I watched feeding together just out from the Sumner lifeboat shed on 7/3/58. At this time there was a widespread drought in Australia; and Frith ex Hoogerwerf recorded a general increase in the wanderings of Australian waterbirds.

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— G. A. TUNNICLIFFE