

First Breeding Populations of The Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) in a Peri-Urban Wetland Areas (Marsh of Boussedra; North-East of Algeria)

Authors : Boudraa Wahiba, Chettibi Farah, Lahlah Naouel, Bouslama Zihad, Houhamdi Moussa

Abstract : The marsh of Boussedra (55 ha) is a peri-urban wetland, located in the city of El - Bouni, wilaya of Annaba (North-east of the Algeria). This city hosts every year, 53 species of waterfowl, belonging to 15 different families, of which the most represented family is the Anatidae with almost 12 species. The Glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) is the only representative of the family of the *Threskiornithidae*. After a total absence for almost a decade, this species has established in North Africa and started breeding since 2000. The Glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), breeds with low numbers in distant areas. At the wetland of Boussedra, the population of this species was observed with numbers approaching 160 individuals. During the breeding season of 2014 (between march and july), this species bred in mixed heronries (Cattle egret *Bubulcus ibis* , Little egret *Egretta garzetta*, The black-crowned night heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* , Squacco heron *Ardeola ralloides* and Little bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*), where a total of 120 nests were counted. This represents the largest colony observed in North Africa. The reproduction of the studied species took place on a Tamaricaceae (*Tamarix gallica*), where more than 2000 nest were constructed. During this breeding season, we have monitored the colony's installation and evolution and tried to characterize the reproduction, at the urban water plan of Boussedra (measurements of nests, measurements of eggs and monitoring the growing rate and weight gaining of the chicks, since their birth until their flight).

Keywords : glossy ibis, reproduction, peri-urban wetland, mixed heronry, Boussedra, Algeria

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