THE GLOSSY IBIS.

THE Glossy Ibis, or Liver, is found in almost every part of the world. In Egypt, where they are numerous at certain periods, these birds are considered very valuable, as they destroy many dangerous and destructive reptiles. In ancient times, the Egyptians forbade their destruction under penalty of death. The birds were kept in temples, and when they died, were embalmed and inurned, and placed with the mummies in the sacred tombs. Thus accustomed to favor, these birds advanced without fear into the midst of cities. At present, however, they are shot by the

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Arabs, and the markets of the sea-coast are abundantly supplied with the game. The Ibises dwell together in flocks, in marshy grounds, exploring for their food in extended lines, and advancing like regular troops. For hours they are observed to bore in the same spot with their long bills, when their prey is abundant. They are slow and solemn in their movements, and seem to measure every step. When alarmed, they rise high, and utter loud cries. The Glossy Ibis has plumage of a dark, glossy brown color, varied with dusky green.