

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #:

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) Reddish Egret

(Scientific Name) Egretta rufescens

Date(s) of occurrence: 4-29-2004

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: ?

Plumage: White morph sub-adult

Exact location: West side of Lake Beckwith

County: Pueblo

Nearest town: Colorado City

Elevation: 6000 feet

Length of observation: 1 hour

Time(s) of observation: 6:30-7:30 AM

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: None

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): None

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: - bird west of observer, cloudy weather

Optical equipment used: 15-60x zoom lens Swift Spotting Scope

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 200-250 yards

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? No

If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Densely riparian small island at west end of Lake Beckwith which has a circumference of over 1 mile

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Bird sat relatively motionless on stick just off a small island at the west end of the Lake.

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. This bird had solid white feathering with a slightly shaggy crest and fore neck. Its bill was long and fairly slim with a dull greenish yellow coloring approximating a Western Grebe's. Culmen ridge was dark black extending into a thick solid dark eye line thru the lores to the eye. Dark culmen also extended distally to prominent black bill tip. White feathering extended slightly further down lower mandible than on upper mandible. Legs were fairly long (proportionately longer than on Cattle Egret), and legs were solid dark slate gray (not quite black). Feet were blackish and slightly darker than legs.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: None heard

SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: This bird was distinguished from other white herons by:

- 1) Its dark lores which contrast with yellow lores of Snowy Egret.
- 2) Its blackish feet contrast with yellow feet of Snowy & Little Egrets.
- 3) Its dark legs contrast with dull yellow legs of Snowy Egrets in non-breeding plumages & light colored legs of Great "White" Herons.
- 4) Its relatively dull yellowish bill with prominent dark culmen & bill tip contrast with bright carrot colored bill of Great & Little Egrets, blue-gray bills of young Little Blue Herons.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen just a few sub-adult white-morph Reddish Egrets on the U.S. Gulf Coast but more adult white-morph birds.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): Sibley Guide to Birds (2000). This bird looked very similar to Sibley's illustration of 2nd year white-morph except the bird I saw was a bit shaggier on crown and fore neck. This is why I think bird may be better described a sub-adult rather than 2nd year.

This report was made from (check one) ☒ notes made during observation ☐ notes made after observation ☐ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: May 3, 2004 10-10:30 AM

Reporting observer: David Silverman

Signature: David Silverman

Reporting observer's address: P.O. Box 362

City: Rye

State: CO

Zip: 81069