

## VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species: Least Bittern Ixobrychus exilis 2. Number: 1
3. Location: Bonny Reservoir, Yuma Co.
4. Date(s): May 12, 1973 5. Time bird seen: few minutes  
about 11 a.m. to
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): From notes made in field (H.K.). "About size of avocet or stilt. Orange legs dangling. Buff patches in wings contrasting with orange of wings + body. Slaty-grey back, long neck." There was no question in our minds - the bird flew toward us and landed + was subsequently flushed twice. P.J. recollects the beautiful coloring of the wings - especially the buff and reddish-orange of the upper wing coverts.
7. Description of voice, if heard: silent
8. Description of behavior:
9. Habitat--general:                       
                                  flying in marsh  
                                  specific: } cattail marsh
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8, explain:  
buffy wing patches eliminate everything else - too small, wrong color for  
American bittern
11. Distance (how measured?):                       
Variable - as close as 20 yards
12. Optical equipment:                       
7x35 binocs
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):  
sun to back
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
PJ has seen in midwest 4-5 times
15. Other observers:                       
Jim Lane, Bob Spencer
16. Did the others agree with your identification?  
yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
none used in field. [Comment: Comm. members please refer to Crosby Plate<sup>8</sup> in  
Birds of Colorado. RTP rendering is terrible.]

Paul R. Julian

Hugh Kingery

Signature

Paul R. Julian

Hugh Kingery

Address: 1269 Chinook WayDate: 1 Aug 1973City, State: Boulder Colo



COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

5-73-81

Accepted

9/2/73

1. Species: LEAST BITTERN Ixobrychus exilis 2. Number: 1  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: Bonny Reservoir, Yuma County
4. Date(s): May 12, 1973 5. Time bird seen: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):  
I saw the bird in flight twice. The first time for only a few seconds, but the second time for a minute or so. The bird was slightly smaller than a coot. The rich brown on the wings and body were clearly visible as well as the dark wing-tips and back. The flight was characteristic of bitterns - a short flight then a quick drop into the marsh.
7. Description of voice, if heard:
8. Description of behavior: It flight was bittern like - short and theah a quick drop into the marsh
9. Habitat--general: Tule marsh  
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:  
I can think of nothing that would have the rich brown color and dark wing tips.
11. Distance (how measured?): From 50 to 100 yars, estimate.
12. Optical equipment: 8X40 binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):  
Good light- sun to my back
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
I am quite familar with the bird. Saw lots of them just this spring in Texas.
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?  
The checklist of Colorado Birds & the fact Harold Holt had never seen one in the state.
16. Other observers: Larry Smith, Paul Julian,  
Hugh Kingery
17. Did others agree with your identification? Yes
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird: I think John and Joyce Cooper also saw it. later.
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: None. I know this bird without a book.
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:  
Jim Lane Jim Lane Box 611  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Prepared: July 20, 1973 City and State: West Yellowstone, Mont 59758

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)