

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*? Number: 1
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

2. Location: PVFD Lakes - 7 miles south of Pueblo, Colo

3. Date(s): May 22, 1973 Time bird seen: 9:00 to 1 minute or longer

4. 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): A small bittern-shaped bird - light shoulder patches seen while flying. Smaller than Green Heron - weak flight - only at a short distance.

5. Description of voice, if heard: I can't remember now

6. Description of behavior: We flushed it from close to bare line of reeds away in a typical bittern heron fashion slow walk flight

7. Habitat - general: marshy willows
specific: edge of shallow freshwater lake into stand of willows

8. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:
Green Heron - Larger and much different color -

9. Distance (how measured?):

10. Optical equipment: 7x35 binoculars

11. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):
Clear, sunny - bird was in good light

12. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
none with Least Bittern - Green Heron I had seen several times

13. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?
It was the first time it had been recorded in Pueblo area

14. Other observers:
Jerry Ligon

15. Did others agree with your identification?
yes

16. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
Jerry Ligon; David Silverman saw one same location a week later

17. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: Birds of North America - Golden Press Field Guide to Western Birds - R. Peterson

18. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

Dave Griffiths Street Address: 17 Solar Drive
Signature
Date Prepared: March 6, 1973 City and State: Pueblo, Colorado

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