

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: LEAST BITTERN | IXOBRYCHUS EXILUS 2. Number: _____
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: CACHE LA POUDE RIVER ~ 7 MILES NW OF FT. COLLINS
4. Date(s): 18 MAY 1974 5. Time bird seen: ~ 11:30 AM to 12:00 AM
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):
NECK: RUDDY
TOP OF HEAD: BLACK
BACK: DARK W/ LONG WHITE HORIZONTAL LINE
WINGS: RUDDY W/ LIGHTER CENTRAL PATCH
ABOUT THE SIZE OF A MAGPIE, W/ VERY LONG NECK
(WHEN STRETCHED OUT). LEGS LONGISH + GOOD FOR CLIMBING
BILL LONG + POINTED, IS KNIFE-LIKE.
7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT HEARD
8. Description of behavior: FLUSHED FROM SIDE OF CANAL, FLEW TO DEAD BRANCH IN A WILLOW, HEAD UP THEN WALKED ALONG BRANCH, FLEW TO TALL GRASS ON ISLAND + DISAPPEARED
9. Habitat--general: COTTONWOOD RIVER BOTTOM
specific: TALL RUSHES (JUNKS SA.) TO REACHLEAF WILLOW (SALIX AMYGDALOIDES)
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain: HERON EARLY ELIMINATED BY SIZE, COLOR, MARKINGS ETC., NO OTHER SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES.
11. Distance (how measured?): 35-40' BY EYE
12. Optical equipment: 8X30 BINOCULARS
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):
CLEAR, LIGHT FROM ABOVE, BIRD SEEN IN DETAIL
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare? LIST ISSUED BY CFO ON RARE + UNUSUAL BIRDS, GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF COLORADO BIRDS
16. Other observers: DALE STAHLAKER + MARY GILBERT
17. Did others agree with your identification? YES
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: ROBBINS, ET AL. A FIELD GUIDE TO IDENTIFICATION: BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA. HAD W/ IN FIELD + USED TO COMPARE, THOUGH BIRD WAS IDENTIFIED W/O IT.
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:
- Paul Gertler Street Address: 4040 LYNDIA LANE
Signature
Date Prepared: 15 JULY 1974 City and State: FT. COLLINS, COLORADO

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