

A

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Tricolored Heron | Egretta tricolor
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date: May 1, 1987Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: — Plumage: adultLocality: Lake Henry (northwest side) Elevation: 4375' ±Nearest town: Ordway & Sugar City County: CrowleyTime observed: 7 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): about 1 minute

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

None

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Discussed belowOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7X binocularsDistance, and how measured: 150' when sitting 300' when flyingIf photographed, type of equipment and film: —Who else photographed the bird? —

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

When I first saw the bird it was squatting with a Black-crowned Night Heron.
The light was poor so all I could tell was that it was a slim,
medium-sized heron.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

See above. Shortly thereafter the bird took off. It immediately croaked.
Its neck in the odd S-shaped manner in which Tricolored Herons fly.
Even though the light was still poor, I was certain this was a
Tricolored Heron. The bird proceeded to circle me, and gradually
came into good light so I could see its coloration

OVER

Description (continued):

Its back ^{and wings were} ~~was~~ blue, its belly was white, and I could see quite a bit of reddish-brown on its long, slim neck.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

No sound

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

The bird was on the NW edge of Lake Henry, north of the area with trees. It was standing in medium height grass in several inches of water.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

This could not have been a Little Blue Heron because it had a white belly (I saw an adult Little Blue Heron later in May 1 at Nee-Soo-Pah Reservoir). It could not have been a Green-backed Heron because it was too large, and its neck was too long and slim. It could not have been a Reddish Egret because of the white belly and slim neck. It was not a Great Blue Heron because it was generally comparable in size with the Night Heron when it was sitting.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen many Tricolored Herons in Texas, Louisiana & Florida. Jerry Cairn found one here in Colorado at Lower Lathan Reservoir on September 8, 1985 which I also saw.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: Golden Guide briefly

b) after observation: National Geographic & Golden Guide

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: May 7, 1987

Reporting observer: L. W. Dan Bridges Signature: J. W. Dan Bridges

Address: 1925 S. Vaughn Way #207 Aurora, CO 80014

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205