

5-81-43

A

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPE BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Tricolored Heron Egretta tricolor
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 5 Sept 1987 Time Bird Seen: a.m. to for about 15 s

Locality: Lake Meredith area.
Ordway Crowley County COLO.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: B&L Scope @ 30x

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: NO

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Plumage: ad., breeding plumage

Light conditions: Excellent. Late a.m. sunlight. direct

Distance from bird, and how measured: Estimated about 100 yds.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Walked hesitantly along edge of rushes in shallow water.
Erect and alert, not feeding. Later scared up and flew
out of sight over edge of cattails.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Shallow water at marshy edge of Lake Meredith. Open
area separated from lake by heavy cattail marsh.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Jack Reddall; Iver Hannay & others

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Medium-sized heron with a long slender neck. About the size of neighboring Snowy Egrets but with longer neck. Smaller than Great Blue Heron, about 24" long. From the back the bird was gray-blue overall with a tan lower back. Long legs were dark-colored. Head gray but with white chin, throat, front part of neck and belly.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Not heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

- Night-herons thicker necked, have black or gray, not tan lower back. Black on face or crown, not gray.
 - Little Blue Heron lack white front- and underparts, gray back.
 - Reddish Egret lacks white front, has brownish head & neck.
 - Great Blue Heron most similar but clearly larger, has black, not white foreneck, blackish crown, gray back.
 - Green-backed Heron, smaller, gray-backed, dark fore-neck.
- Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen all north-Am. Herons with much experience with ad. & imm. Tricolored Herons & Great Blue Herons. I've seen Reddish Egrets only about 1/2 doz. times.

This report was written from notes made during X after observation; from memory X.

NAME (print): MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 860 SHARPE C. DELTA, CO 81416

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

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: September 5, 1987Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: adultLocality: West end of Lake Meredith on Bob Creek 300 yards Elevation: 4260' ±
east of Route 71Nearest town: Ordway County: CrowleyTime observed: 9:35 and 9:40 AM - bird flew short distance twiceDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): I saw it about 1 second - others longerOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
Ives Hannay spotted and identified the bird first (but she is not in the habit of writing
these reports - so as trip leader I'm stuck!) 3841 S. Juniper Cr. Evergreen 80439 674-8725
Mort Staatz 13435 Braun Road, Golden 80401 279-6169

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

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

Good light - We were looking diagonally toward the morning sunOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8X binocularsDistance, and how measured: 250 feet est.

If 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 first seen the bird was feeding by the reeds along Bob Creek.
Then it flew a short distance away from us behind the reeds.I did not see it until it flew quickly over the reeds a second time

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:

Medium size heron with long neck and long legs.Dark blue on the back - white breast - I saw itonly for a second.

Description (continued):

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

None

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

Marshy area on west end of Lake Meredith with reeds and small amount of flowing water in Bob Creek. Many ducks and dowitchers present and some Snowy Egrets

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

It was not a Lesser Blue Heron because it was white below
It was too small for a Great Blue Heron

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

This is the third Tricolored Heron I have seen in Colorado.
See May 1, 1987 report
also seen September 8, 1985

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

a) at time of observation:

None

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory _____
Date and time report was written: 29 Sept 87

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

Address: 1925 S. Vaughn Way #207 Aurora, Colorado 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