

5-93-70

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: 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.

Dates (s): May 9, 1993 Time Bird Seen: 4PM to 4:30 PMLocality: Huerfano Lake Vineland, Pueblo County, Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Swift spotting scope 15-60x zoom lens

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: AdultLight conditions: GoodDistance from bird, and how measured: 50

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Bird flew into shallow water of lake with nearby thick reeds & dense vegetation

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Large prairie lake. Bird seemed to prefer area of lake with densest vegetation.

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

This bird was first found; identified by Allen Wood Vineland CO 29650 Gale Rd
Bob Dickson 55 Villa Drive, Pueblo CO - Dave Johnson 1920 Greenwood - Pueblo CO

APPENDIX 11 Continued

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.

Long legged Heron-like bird, mostly bluish upper parts with white underparts. Neck was long, bluish on top, white on bottom. White extended into throat. Bill was ^{straight} long, dull yellowish. ~~Yellow~~ extended into lores. Bird was smaller than Great Blue Heron but larger than Green-backed Heron.

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

No sound

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Adult Little Blue Heron has blue bill, blue belly.
Reddish Egret has mostly pink bill, solid rusty head & neck, blue belly.
Great Blue Heron is large with more uniform dull gray-blue appearance & black head stripe.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have seen many Little Blues, Great Blues, & Tricolored Herons in several states. I have seen Reddish Egrets in Florida & Texas.

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

Name (print) : David Silverman

Mailing address: P O Box 362 Rye CO 81069

Signature: David A. Silverman

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

 - New State Record - X - Rare or Unusual bird in
 ----- Colorado.

Tricolored Heron
 (Species)

Egretta tricolor
 (Scientific name)

Date(s):

May 9, 1993 4:30-5:20 PM 30 minutes.

Locality:

Huerfano Reservoir, Vineland, Pueblo Co.

Nearest town, county and state)

Optical equipment:

10X40 Bausch & Lomb Custom Binoculars

15-45 Bausch & Lomb Spotting Scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Not Photographed

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: sub adult

Light Conditions:

excellent

Distance from bird and how measured:

20-50 yards.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

The bird acted heron like attempting to catch a fish.

Standing slanted. Walking along the waters edge.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

A lake with many cattail marshes that the bird went into and hid.

Other observers who independently identified the bird

(Please list names and address):

Laura & Jim Townsend May 8, 1993

David Silverman May 9, 1993 with me

Lindsay Lilly May 9, 1993

Bob Dickson May 9, 1993 with me

Dave Johnson May 9, 1993 with me

Sylvia Wheelock May 10, 1993 (they saw two birds)

Pearle Sandstrom-Smith May 10, 1993 ()

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. The field marks used to identify the bird. Include Size, overall shape, plumage, and color pattern; details on shape of bill, wings, and tail.:

I identified the bird by it's heron shape, white throat and belly, short size compared to Great Blue Herons and by it's white feather behind the head and by it's dark blue neck head, wings, and back.

The bird was about 26". The shape was heron like. the bird was in sub adult breeding plumage with no plumes on the back. The color of the bill was yellow with and darkish tip. The eyes were red. The forehead was medium blue, the ear patch was also medium blue. There was a white feather on the back of the head. The side and hindneck, the side throat were all medium blue. The throat, neck and belly were white. The back was also medium blue. The wings seemed a touch darker then the back. The tail was medium blue. All upper parts were medium blue. The under parts were white. A white line seperated the wings from the neck. The legs were yellow and the feet were not observed. The the shape of the bill was typical heron shape, long the thick pointed at the end. The wings were typical heron shaped. The tail was short and squared like other herons.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds if heard:

No calls or sounds heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

All other herons and reddish egrets do not have a white line going down from the throat to the belly.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen one immature Tricolored Heron at Hidden Lake in Westminster, Colorado in 1991.

I've seen thousands of Great Blue Herons in CO & CA.

I've seen Little Blue Herons in CO one adult one immature and 2 adults and 1 immature in San Diego CA.

I've not seen Reddish Egrets.

References used during and after sighting:

National Geographic Society's Bird's of North America.
at the time of observation.

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

Name: Brandon K. Percival

Mailing address: 835 Harmony Dr.

Pueblo West, Colorado 81007-2604
(719)-547-3722

Signature: Brandon K. Percival

Return form to: CFO Records Committee

c/o Curator-Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205