

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

TRICOLORED HERON (2)

Egretta tricolorRed 1/20/00 wpl
ACCEPT 7-0Location: pond just southeast of Lake Holbrook; near Rocky Ford; Otero County, ColoradoDate: May 16, 1999Setting:

These two birds were found by Brandon Percival and myself. We observed them from 11:50 a.m. - 12:00 noon in bright sun from the side. The birds were at about 150 yards distance and we looked at them in my Kowa TSN-4 scope (20-60X). They fed in the shallow emergent, grassy-sedgy edge to this shallow pond. Also present were a White-faced Ibis (which was roughly the same size as these two birds) and a Great Blue Heron (which dwarfed these two birds).

Description:

The birds were breeding-plumaged adults. They were about 24" long, being roughly comparable in size to the nearby White-faced Ibis (they were small herons). Both birds were long-legged, long-necked waders. At first glance, in the binoculars, they looked all-dark, though the white thighs were clearly seen. In the scope they were dark grayish birds with a lighter, tan-brown lower back. The foreneck showed a long streak of white, from chin to chest. The thighs and underparts were white. The bill was yellowish and very large, proportionately, for this small of a heron.

Similar Species:

The long legs, long slender neck, and medium, sharp bill indicate a heron. The Great Blue Heron is much larger with other colors (black, white and gray) in its plumage. Night-Herons are much stockier and shorter-necked with black on the head and/or back. No other local is dark above and white below with such a large bill.

Experience with Species:

I have experience with all North American herons and egrets including Reddish Egret, Tricolored Heron and Little Blue Herons.

This report is prepared from very brief notes made after observation and from memory.

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