

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

2001-48

8-26 May 01

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) **Tricolored Heron**

(Scientific Name) **Egretta tricolor**

Date(s) of occurrence: **5/17/01**

Number of birds seen: **One**

Sex:

Plumage: **Adult/Breeding Plumage**

Exact location: **Strauss Cabin Lake**

County: **Larimer**

Nearest town: **Ft. Collins**

Elevation:

Length of observation: **15 minutes**

Time(s) of observation: **Approx. 10 a.m.**

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **None**

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): **Hector Galbraith, Nick Komar, Joe Roller, Gene Ellis**

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: **Sunny & clear**

Optical equipment used: **Swarovski Scope with 20-60 zoom**

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): **?**

Was bird(s) photographed? **Digital video and still capture**

If so, have you submitted photos? **Video and still**

Who took the photographs? **Self**

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: **Gravel mining lake, bird was walking along the shoreline and then in the center on a vegetated island**

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): **Walking along the shoreline fishing with snowy egrets and then standing and preening on the center island.**

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes): **Dark breast and white belly. White line along foreneck. Dark blue upperparts changing to a more bronzy color on mantle and lower back. Two white plumes projected from back of head. Long neck, long blueish gray bill with dark tip. Grayish-green legs.**

Describe bird's call or song:

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **No other heron has the distinct plumage of dark breast and white belly.**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **I have seen numerous Tricolored Herons both in and out of the U.S.**

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **National Geographic.**

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later ☒ from memory

Date of written report: **5/17/01**

Reporting observer: **Rachel Kolokoff**

Signature:

Rachel Kolokoff

Reporting Observer's Address: **1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.**

City: **Ft. Collins**

State: **CO**

Zip: **80524**

Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
Tony Leukering
P.O. Box 157
Arvada, CO 80001

CFO-ORC FILE # 2001-48

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(s): 17 June 2001

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Adult

Locality: Strauss Cabin Lake Elevation: 5000'

Nearest town: Fort Collins County: Larimer

Time(s) observed: 10:30 - 11 AM

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 30 minutes

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

Joe Mammoser

Joe Roder

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

Hector Galbraith Nick Komer others?

Rachel Kolokoff

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

Excellent - bird was north of sun, sun behind it

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Bushnell 20-60x scope

Distance, and how measured: Estimate 100 yards

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):

Feeding in shallow water for small fish along the shore of a back-water, flood-formed lake @ associated gravel mining near Poudre River. Bird often crouched low and stretched out prior to bill-plunge for prey.

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:

Slender, medium-sized, darkish heron with long, slender bill. Head, neck and breast mostly dark blue-gray (much darker than Great Blue Heron). White plumes on back of head. Lower front neck showed mottled dark blue-gray and white lengthwise mottling. Area under chin appeared purplish-brown. Back lower neck/nape was purplish-brown. Wings & back dark blue-gray. Belly to undertail area pure white. Legs dark green-blue. At certain angles there appeared to be a white crescent at the front part of the wing ("shoulder"). Actually this was just an extension of the underparts that curved up around the front part of the wing. Bill dark over the 1/3 distal tip. Rest of bill blue-gray. Bill very long and needle-like.

Description (continued):

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

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

Shallows near shore of shallow freshwater lake formed in spring of 1998 or 1999 when Poudre River flooded.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Smaller, darker than GB Heron. White underparts in combination with dark upper parts separated the bird from adult Little Blue and dark Reddish Egret. White mottled chest and head plumes also unique to body build.

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

I have seen 100's of all similar species and several dozen Tricolors on the Gulf Coast, North Carolina.

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

a) at time of observation:

none

b) after observation:

Sibley, Nat. Geo.

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation from memory

Date and time report was written: 6/17/01

Reporting observer:

David Leatherman

Signature:

David Leatherman

Address:

612 Stover St #7

Fort Collins CO 80524

2001-48

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Tricolored Heron

Number: 1 adult

Location: Strauss Cabin L., Fort Collins, Larimer Co., Colorado

Habitat: shallow lake

Date: 18, 22 June 2001

Time: 7:26-7:56 a.m. and 7:20-7:45 p.m. (18 June)

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 1/2 West Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird(s): m. ob.

Rec'd 11/8/01 (R)

Description of bird(s): On my second trip to Strauss Cabin Lake on the 18th, I quickly located an adult Tricolored Heron on the mudflats along the south shore of the lake. The bird was actively foraging with several Snowy Egrets throughout the observation. The bird was roughly the same size as a Snowy Egret, although to my eye it seemed a bit longer-necked and was definitely longer-billed. The identification as a Tricolored Heron was straightforward and features I noted included a slate blue-gray neck (except for a pale foreneck), upper breast, mantle, and upperwings, a couple of pale plumes on the sides of the neck and above the folded wings, a contrasting white lower belly, and a very long, dark bill that sometimes appeared bicolored (dark tip and paler base). I did not note the leg color. On the basis of plumage, I concluded the bird was an adult Tricolored Heron in near full alternate plumage. The heron was still present on the 22nd, but not thereafter.

Similar species and how eliminated: The combination of a contrasting dark foreneck and upper breast and a white belly, small size, and active foraging behavior safely eliminates other dark herons, especially Great Blue and Little Blue herons.

Previous experience with species: I have seen hundreds of Tricolored Herons in the southeastern U. S. plus a single bird in western Nebraska.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with partly cloudy skies and the sun to one side. Estimated viewing distance was 100-150m. I used 10x42 binoculars and a 20-60x spotting scope.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes written? none written

How long before this form completed? written 21 June 2001

2001-48

rec'd 5/25/02

SPECIES: TRICOLORED HERON | EGRETTA TRICOLOR
 (Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

DATE(S): 6-17-01 TIME OF OBSERVATION: 10:30 AM TO 11:10 AM

EXACT LOCATION: STRAUSS CABIN LAKE ALONG HORSETOOTH RD

NEAREST TOWN: FT. COLLINS COUNTY: LARIMER

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: BAUSCH & LOMB 10X42 ELITE BINOCULARS, SPACEMASTER SCOPE

WEATHER CONDITIONS: PARTIAL HIGH CLOUDS

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: BIRD IN FRONT, SUN OVERHEAD AND SLIGHTLY TO RIGHT

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: APPROXIMATED AT 250-300 YDS

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: _____ PLUMAGE: ALTERNATE

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: SLOWLY FEEDING IN THE SHALLOW WATER ALONG THE NORTH SHORE, SOMETIMES RUNNING AFTER PREY. MOSTLY IT WOULD SLOWLY WALK AND STAB AT PREY

HEAD & NECK (forehead, crown, auricular & malar regions, median line, etc.):
THE HEAD AND LONG, THIN NECK WERE SLATE GRAY. THERE WERE TWO SHORT, SOMEWHAT THICK, PURE WHITE PLUMES ON THE BACK OF THE HEAD. THE FRONT OF THE NECK HAD A WHITE STREAK DOWN TO THE LOWER NECK
 EYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.): _____

LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): THE BILL WAS QUITE LONG AND THIN WITH THE OUTER 1/3 BLACKISH AND THE BASAL 2/3 BLuish-GRAY
 LEGS & FEET: LEGS AND FEET APPEARED TO BE UNIFORM PALE GRAYISH-BROWN.

UPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.): THE HIND NECK WAS SLATE GRAY ALL THE WAY ONTO THE UPPER BACK. THE LOWER BACK APPEARED TO BE LIGHT BROWNISH OR PURPLE MIXED WITH LIGHT BROWN.

UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.): WHERE THE NECK JOINED THE UPPER BREAST, THERE WERE SOME SHAGGY PURPLISH FEATHERS. BELOW THIS, IT WAS PURE WHITE ALL THE WAY TO THE UNDERTAIL COVERTS WHICH ALSO WERE WHITE

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RETRICES (inner, middle & outer tail feathers; color, pattern, shape, etc.):

THE TAIL APPEARED SOMEWHAT SHORT, BUT DUE TO FEATHERS ON THE LOWER BACK, WE COULD NOT CLEARLY SEE THE TAIL COLOR

WINGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.): THE WINGS APPEARED SLATE GRAY, SAME COLOR AS HEAD AND HIND NECK

VOCALIZATION (call/song, method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight):

NONE

HABITAT:

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

THE BIRD WAS APPROXIMATELY THE SIZE OF SNOWY EGRETS, THOUGH THE EGRETS APPEARED SLIGHTLY BIGGER WITH MUCH THICKER NECKS. THE SMALLER SIZE WOULD RULE OUT A RUNT OR YOUNG GREAT BLUE HERON. THE LIGHTER GRAY COLOR AND WHITE UNDERNEATH WOULD RULE OUT A LITTLE BLUE HERON. THE WHITE UNDERNEATH AND HEAD AND NECK COLORS WOULD RULE OUT A RUNT REDDISH EGRET

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

I HAVE SEEN NUMEROUS GREAT BLUE HERONS IN COLORADO AND OTHER STATES. I HAVE SEEN NUMEROUS LITTLE BLUE HERONS IN TEXAS, TENNESSEE AND FLORIDA ALONG WITH THREE IN COLORADO. I HAVE SEEN DOZENS OF REDDISH EGRETS IN TEXAS AND FLORIDA. I HAVE SEEN DOZENS OF TRICOLORED HERONS IN TEXAS AND FLORIDA.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

NONE

THIS REPORT WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING ☒ AFTER ☐ OBSERVATION; ☐ FROM MEMORY

NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____