

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

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

Rec'd 21 Feb 03

Species: Tricolored Heron
(Common Name)Egretta tricolor
(Scientific Name)Date(s) of observation: Aug 15 & 18, 2002Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: juvExact location: At the confluence of the Meredith Res. outlet channel & the Ft. Lyon Storage CanalCounty: Otero / Crowley Nearest town: Rocky Ford Elevation: 4,000Length of observation: 30 minutes and 20 minutes Times(s) of observation: About 8 AM both daysOther observers who saw the bird(s) with you: on the 18th, Brandon Percival & Sherry ChapmanOther observers who independently saw the bird(s): BB Hahn & Se Etta Moss & lots of others.Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird's position): Sunny, clearOptical equipment used: Celestron Regal 8x40 binos, Nikon 30x scopeDistance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 20 to 200 yardsWas bird photographed?: Yes - video taped If so, have you submitted photographs? - tapeWho took the photographs? Stan OswaldDescribe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: In the bottom of a wide canal with flowing water

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):

It associated with snowy egrets and walked & stood along edge of water. It was also seen flying several times.

Describe the bird(s) in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird(s) 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. Describe other 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 of field notes):

see attachedDescribe bird's call or song: None

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Seen once before in Colorado in 200 at Gageby Creek, John Martin Res.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation):

Compared bird to Sibley guide during observationThis report was made from notes made during _____ or after X observation, or later from memory XDate of written report: Aug 22, 2002Reporting observer: Stan Oswald Signature: Stan W. OswaldObserver's address: 1208 Washington Ave. Rocky Ford, CO 81067

Send report to: Tony Leukering, P.O. Box 660, Brighton, CO. 80601

The bird was a small heron, about the size of the snowy egrets it associated with. It had a dark bluish back and chestnut shoulders and neck. Its underparts were white and it had a thin white stripe down the front of its neck. It had greenish legs and a long darkish bill that was somewhat lighter towards the base. When the bird flew it showed a whitish rump and white V up its back like a dowitcher. It flew within 50 ft. directly overhead on Aug. 18 and the white belly and underwing coverts were obvious along with its dark chestnut breast and neck. It seemed to tuck its neck into a tighter curve than snowy egrets do, so that the neck and breast bulged downward as it flew.

A great blue heron was also present with the snowy egrets and tricolored heron Aug. 15, allowing for direct comparison. The great blue was markedly larger. Dark morph reddish egrets and adult little blue herons do not have white bellies.

I did not hear the tricolored heron make a sound.

