

Colorado Record No: _____
Colorado Rare Bird Report Documentation Form

Common Name: **TRICOLORED HERON (*Egretta tricolor*)**

Numbers Seen: One

Distance: 100 to 500 feet

Light conditions: Sunny, clear. No winds. 65 degrees. Light was on the birds side in two different viewing positions.

Optical Equipment: Swarovski 8X30, Swift Spotting Scope 20-60

Sex and Age: Breeding Adult

Location: At Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge

County: Alamosa Date(s) and Time of Observation: May 11, 2006, 0930, 1015, At 0930 we viewed the bird for 15 minutes. At 1015, for 5 minutes

Description of the Bird: The bird flushed from a nearby pond as our vehicle approached. It was about 100 feet away when it did and we saw a dark blueish gray heron fly past us and land farther out in the wetland. It was slightly larger than nearby Snowy Egrets. In flight, it first held its long thin neck out in an extended fashion and later withdrew it into an s-shaped coil. In flight, we easily saw the white underwings that contrasted with the darker underwing primary and secondary feathers. Legs were extended during flight past the tail. I also observed the dark blueish gray breast that abruptly changed to white belly and undertail. Once perched in the water, through the scope, I saw a light grayish rump on mostly a blueish gray back, neck and wings. Head and neck looked bluish gray and I could not see any white on the throat or neck. Bill was pale colored, thin and very long.

Habitat: Wetlands

Behavior: It was a very skittish bird. On our return visit to the pond where we had first flushed it, it stayed a few seconds and then flushed again, flying out into the marsh.

Vocalizations: None

Differentiation from Similar Species: Not Little Blue heron because of white belly and undersides. Not a Reddish Egret...our bird was smaller and had a white belly, underside. Not a Great Blue heron due to this bird being much smaller, had darker bluish gray color and white undersides.

Previous Experience with this Species: Have seen this species in Colorado, Florida and Texas.

Others who observed this species: John Stump, Lisa Clements

Was the bird Photographed? Yes.

Two other occurrences of this species have been previously documented in the San Luis Valley by myself and Rich Levad.

Observer and Signature: John J. Rawinski : Report Written Date: 5/17/2006 11:49 AM

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Signature: *John J. Rawinski*

The photo below was taken by Lisa Clements, via digital camera and scope.

