

R-26 Apr 01 (c)

CFO-ORC FILE # 2001-77

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐

UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Reddish Egret | Egretta rufescens
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): 27 May 2001

Number of birds seen: 1 white Sex: ? Plumage: Subadult

Locality: Lake Hasty below John Martin Res. dam Elevation: ~3700'

Nearest town: Hasty County: Bent

Time(s) observed: 8:00-8:30 PM

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):

Janeal Thompson Lamar 719/336-9658
704 Willow Valley Drive

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

Diane Nelson earlier in the month on John Martin Res

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

Light was low from the west, we were north of the bird, basically good light

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Kowa Scope + Swift 8x binocs

Distance, and how measured: Closest was 20-30 yards

If photographed, type of equipment and film: Not photographed! my bad. I was too excited and just forgot!

Who else photographed the bird? Nobody that I know of

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

With all due respect the bird acted like it had Tourette's Syndrome: calm standing followed by jerky, jerky hyper fist-chasing with wings held high. The motions all time were almost spastic and somewhat comical. The water was shallow and near the swim beach on the east side of the lake.

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:

Medium-sized, white wader. Taller than cattle egret, little blue heron or snowy egret. Neck of moderate thickness, longish. Bill of moderate proportions. Distal 1/4 of bill darkish (not black), with rest of bill medium gray. On some views the very base of the bill appeared to be the palest part of the bill. Could not tell the eye color but the darkish lores made the whole eye area appear dark. Feathered part of the bird entirely white, including primary tips. Legs, including feet, entirely medium blue-gray. No hint of green in the legs in any light, from any angle.

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:

Small, shallow lake below dam of large reservoir.
Apparently lots of small fish in lake. Near sandy island.
How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? along the swim beach.
Size bigger than Little Blue H or Snowy Egret. Neck thinner than
Cattle Egret plus much taller. No black in wingtips and blueish
legs unlike Little Blue imm. leg & foot color unlike Snowy imm.
or adult Snowy. Bill color unlike Great Egret (legs also).
Feeding behavior unique except for Snowy's on occasion.

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

I have seen several individuals of all U.S. white waders
but do not recall studying subspecies Ruddy Egret.
First of this species in CO for me. Seeing white bird inland
quite unusual.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification: Sibley is only book that shows plumage we saw

a) at time of observation:

Sibley

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation X from memory
Date and time report was written: 27 May 2001

Reporting observer: David Leatlerman Signature: David Leatlerman

Address: 612 Stover St #7 Ft Collins, CO 80524

dleatler@lamar.colostate.edu

970/446-0193 (H)

970/441-6303 (W)