

Accepted 10/18/74

Species: LITTLE BLUE HERON

Florida caerulea

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): September 2, 1974

Time Bird Seen: 5:00 PM to 5:10 PM

Locality: Ponds below Prospect Reservoir

Nearest Town: Hudson

County: Wild

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Optical Equipment: 7x35 binocular (Hertel's)

Light Conditions: Cloudy; sun position not a factor.

Distance from Bird (how measured): estimated 50 yards

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: - Plumage: immature (white phase)

Overall Appearance and Size: all white heron about 2 feet tall. comparable to Great Blue Herons feeding nearby, it was smaller; yet larger than the size of Franklin's gulls sitting next to it.

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): long, thin. Blue-gray with darker tip (seen well).

Legs (shape and color): long, horn-like. Uniformly gray. Foot color same; noted careful

Crown and Forehead: white Eye (color): Not noted

Nape: " Face: white Throat: white

Breast and Sides: "

Belly and Flanks: "

Undertail Coverts: "

Back: "

Wings: "

Underwings: "

Rump: "

Uppertail Coverts: white

Upper Side of Tail: "

Under Side of Tail: "

Shape of Tail: short, typical heron

Voice: Silent.

Behavior: Sat still on mudbank with gulls, then flew off slowly when flushed.

Habitat: Pond with mud flats.

Prior Experience with this Species: This species and all similar herons including Great Egrets have been seen frequently each year for about 10 years in Missouri & North & South Carolina & on trip to Florida. All color phases have been seen & photographed by me.

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated?

Great Egret is larger, has yellow bill & black legs.

Snowy Egret has yellow feet, black bill.

Cattle Egret has buffy patches, yellow bill & legs.

Reddish Egret (white phase) would be similar but with flesh-colored bill, with dark tip, shaggy head; never seen in Colo.

Black-crowned Night Heron, adult has black back, young are brown.

No chance this was an ibis or crane by general shape & bill.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during after X observation; Memory

Signed: Joe Reller, N.D.

Street Address: 1141 Fronton St

Date Prepared: 9/5/74

Town and State: Aurora, Colo

ZIP 80010

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

The two key features of this bird that I
looked for to distinguish it from other
herons were the bill & the feet color.

Most little Blue Herons seen north of the breeding
range, are immature, white phase birds.
(in late summer)