

Species: LITTLE BLUE HERON

Florida caerules

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): April 19-20 (12-13?) ^{can check to verify which} Time Bird Seen: Daylight hours, to Sat. & Sun.

Locality: Cherry Creek Sand Specialties gravel pit pond - 2510 So. Wabash

Nearest Town: Denver County: Arapahoe

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Dr. Thompson Marsh</u>	<u>199 Ash St, Denver 80220</u>	<u>377-5380</u>
<u>H. J. Baer, Jr. (photographer)</u>	<u>1065 Logan, Denver</u>	<u>893-6699</u>
<u>L. M. Schachter</u>	<u>990 Logan, Denver</u>	<u>623-5781</u>

Optical Equipment: Leitz Trinovid 10 X 40 binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used: Pentax Spotmatic, 200 mm f5.6 preset

Light Conditions: Early light, good, clear sky

Distance from bird (how measured): 25 to 75 yards

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: Plumage: Adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Dignified and contemplative. Waded about in the shallows of the small, almost coverless pond where observed without any visible haste or flurry, occasionally probing with the bill, occasionally just standing; even flew, when flushed, with some deliberation and for no great distances, showing the full, arched, rather slow wingbeats one associates with herons.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern.

Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

About two feet or a bit more in length (26" for closest guess) - but not a big bird for its length; slender, narrow, drawn fine, not chunky.

In overall shape; an elegant, stylized heron, like a miniaturized, refined Great Blue.

In plumage quite unlike Great Blue, appearing almost black all over at a distance. Close up, a dark blue with back of head, neck, upper breast washed with a reddish purple. In flight (in sunlight) so blue over back as to resemble Steller's Jay color in intensity and reflective property. All dark, including legs, except for a small whitish area at base of bill and around eye - a little gray "mask" most visible at close-to-medium distance.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

- None heard -

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Pond located in gravel pit; somewhat irregular shape, but very little cover - sparse rushes, couple of osiers or little willows, a few weeds - and that not apparently much resorted to by the bird. Some Canada geese on pond which warned of every approach and apparently made the heron feel quite secure.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated? Nothing very like it upon reasonable observation. Green Heron smaller, would also show light legs and, on this close a view, light throat / belly, different coloring. Cannot think what else it might resemble closely, even seen at a distance. Little Blue is darker, smoother, smaller than dark-phase Reddish Egret, and lacks the mostly-light bill; furthermore, Little Blue is unusual, but a Reddish Egret would have to be classified Next-to-impossible.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

No very similar species, as mentioned above, likely here.

Quite familiar with Great Blue; reasonably so with Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron; seen southerly species (Reddish Egret, La. Heron) only on film.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Realized this to be a heron I had never previously seen, so went home & looked it up in Bailey & Niedrach, Pictorial Checklist of Colorado Birds, which influenced me to go back, look again, and be sure, which the bird obligingly gave me the chance to do. Also called Dr. Marsh to verify.

This report was written from notes made during after X observations from memory X

PRINT NAME: BILLMYER, Johanna SIGNATURE: J. Billmyer DATE: April 29 - Ma 7
Street Address: 1519 Ea. Mexico Ave. Town and State: Denver, Colo. ZIP: 80210

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

Species: LITTLE BLUE HERON

Florida caerulea

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): April 13, 1975 Time Bird Seen: 10 AM to 10:45 AM

Locality: near E. Evans and Iliff and Welbush (sand pit filled with water)

Nearest Town: Denver County: Denver

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Robert Andrews

LeVona Holt

Optical Equipment: 7 x 35 binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used: 35 mm Exakta with 400 mm lens plus 2x adaptor

Light Conditions: bright sun

Distance from bird (how measured): as close as 100 feet measured on lens

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Bird fed along shore but spooked easily and flew numerous times across the water and along shore.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

The bird was a long-legged long-necked wader standing about two feet high. It was dark blue in color with a rusty colored neck, dark legs and a light bill (bluish) with a dark tip.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

Did not call

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

The bird was feeding and walking along the shore of a open sand pit in which some vegetation was growing along the edge and shore. The area of water was about 100 yards across and maybe two hundred yards in length. Cherry Creek was nearby with it's border of trees of willow and cottonwood.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

The only species it could be confused with is a reddish egret which has a black-tipped yellow bill and lighter colored bluish legs and a much more rugged appearance.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Observed many times in Florida and the Texas coast.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

None

This report was written from notes made during _____ after _____ observation; from memory X

PRINT NAME: Harold R. Holt SIGNATURE: H.R. Holt DATE: April 18, 195
Street Address: 2001 W. 92 # 716 Town and State: Denver Colo ZIP: 80221

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 1450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: LITTLE BLUE HERON

Florida caerulea

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): April 13 and 15, 1975

Time Bird Seen: various times to

Locality: Cherry Creek Sand Specialties Co.

Nearest Town: Denver

County: Arapahoe

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Thompson Marsh</u>	<u>Paul Julian</u>	
<u>Bruce Webb</u>	<u>Bill Lybarger</u>	
<u>Steve Larson</u>	<u>Harold Holt</u>	

Optical Equipment: 7 X 50 binoculars, 15-60X Z66m telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Sunny, various angles

Distance from bird (how measured): minimum of 50 feet(estimated)

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Adult-breeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Observed feeding and flying around the edge and shallows of a small sand pit.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

A small heron. Head and neck dark purplish-maroon, remainder of body slate-blue. Legs grayish-black. Lores, eyering, basal portion of bill bright electric-blue (bill tipped in dusky). Eye white with dark pupil. Head with several long, filamentous purplish plumes. Some feathers of lower neck, breast and lower back long and filamentous

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

I heard none

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Small water-filled sand pit, adjacent to a wooded creek-bottom and golf course.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Great Blue Heron-much larger, lighter in color.

Louisiana Heron-similar sized, but differently colored, with strong white belly, head plumes white not dark, white line up front of neck, rest of head bluish not maroon or purplish, yellowish legs.

Reddish Egret-somewhat larger, base of bill pinkish not blue, has much more ragged appearance, much more active feeding behavior.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Great Blue Heron seen many times.

Louisiana and Little Blue and Reddish Egret seen only a few weeks earlier during late March 1975 in Texas, none ever seen by me in Colorado.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

This report was written from notes made during X after observation; from memory

PRINT NAME: Robert Andrews

SIGNATURE: Robert Andrews DATE: Nov 12, 19

Street Address: 1390 So Ivy Way

Town and State: Denver, Colorado ZIP: 80224

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 1450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD REPORT

CFO-ORC FILE NO. 5-75-33

☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD

☐ NEW STATE RECORD

☒ ACCEPTED

☐ REJECTED 9/26/75

Species: Little Blue Heron
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

Florida Cuckoo
Dendroica dominica

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): April 13, 1975

Time Bird Seen: about 9:00 to about 9:15

Locality: Gravel pit near E. Highway 160

Nearest Town: Idaho

County: Idaho

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Johanna Billmeyer</u>	<u>1519 East Morris Ave, Idaho</u>	<u>722-1419</u>

Optical Equipment: 20x60 binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: Good

Distance from bird (how measured): 100 yds estimated

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: _____ Plumage: full adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: A dark, medium sized heron, when I first saw it it was standing still. After a while it flew to the edge of the water + poked with its bill. It had been reported to me by Johanna Billmeyer who had seen it the day before + back on the 13th as she was riding.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

A medium sized heron, slim, generally dark blue-gray; head + neck dark brown; bill dark blue, darker at the tip; legs greenish blue; underparts all dark, slaty.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Grassy edge of a pond in a game pit.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Not a Louisiana because the belly was dark, not white
 not a Reddish because the bill was dark, not pink, +
 the feathers on the head-neck were streaked out

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have seen many of all of these species in Florida + Texas

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

I looked at Robins, Brown + 2 in so I watched the bird

This report was written from notes made during _____ after _____ observation; from memory L

PRINT NAME: Thompson G Marsh SIGNATURE: Thompson Marsh DATE: 4-22-75
 Street Address: 199 Ash Town and State: Denver Colo ZIP: 80110

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