

5-81-60

Species: Little Blue Heron  
(Vernacular name)Florida caerulea  
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 8/21/81 Time Bird Seen: 0900 to 1000 hrs.Locality: Chatfield Reservoir S.P., Denver, Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Bushnell 10x50 and Spacemaster scope 20xIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: no photoNumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: U. Plumage: immature, probably first year.Light conditions: clear, bright skies; bird viewed in good backlightDistance from bird, and how measured: estimated 70 yds.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

foraging in shallow water at reservoir edge

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

shallow fresh water impoundment

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Barbara Heil my wife of same address.



Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Size and proportions same as Snowy Egret; plumage entirely white; bill distinctly two-toned, blue-based, black tipped; skin at base of bill grayish blue, not yellowish; legs uniformly greenish-yellow & assume that the bird was probably a first year (juv.) since second-yr birds often show some blue in plumage.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

no vocalizations heard

\* List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Snowy Egret has all blackish bill or only <sup>indistinctly</sup> ~~indirectly~~ two toned; Snowy Egrets, even immes., show yellowish skin ~~at~~ between the eye and bill; Legs of Snowy Egret often more yellowish, particularly the feet.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Extensive experience with both adults and immatures of Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron in Massachusetts and elsewhere.

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_ after ☒ observation; from memory \_\_\_.

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