

Species: Little Blue Heron  
(Vernacular name)Florida caerulea [A]  
(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): 6/2 & 6/3/83 Time Bird Seen: Around 10:00 AM on both morningsLocality: Alamosa NWR, 5 miles SE of Alamosa, Co.  
Near Mamm Well on 6/2, approximately 1 mile south on 6/3  
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 7X50 BinocularsIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Not photographedNumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: adultLight conditions: Both days were clear with excellent light conditionsDistance from bird, and how measured: 6/2 - 25', 6/3 - 40' (estimated)

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Bird in both cases was standing near water edge in an alert posture. When observed after 1-2 minutes bird flew off.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:


Both times seen on the Mamm Ditch drainage system. The ditch goes through marshland and flooded grassland. Ditch has camp in it.

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

Lee SwearingenOSU, Fort Collins



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.

Bird stood approximately 2' tall, about half size of Great Blue Heron. Brownish colored neck and blue body on both chest and back. When bird flew held head in typical  (U) shape of herons.

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

None heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

- Great Blue Heron - eliminated on basis of size. This bird was only  $\frac{1}{2}$  as big.
- Louisiana Heron - This bird did not have light underparts.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Have seen many little blues when I lived in Louisiana.

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

NAME (print): Jon Kauffeld

Mailing address: Alamosa / Monk Vista NWR, P.O. Box 1148, Alamosa, Co. 81

Signature: Jon D. Kauffeld

Return to:  
Hugh E. Kingery  
869 Milwaukee Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206