

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: Little Blue Heron; Egretta caerulea  
(Vernacular name) (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.

Dates (s): 8 Aug 1990 Time Bird Seen: ~14:30 to 15:00 pm.Locality: C.F.I. Ponds  
Pueblo, Colo.

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binocs; Kowa 20-60X Scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: - Plumage: ImmatureLight conditions: Sun angled from left; good lightDistance from bird, and how measured: 200 yds - 1/4 mile

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Bird was with 3 Snowy Egrets. Feeding in grassy shallows and flying with egrets back and forth across the lake.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Plains Res.

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

Bird found by Dave Silverman.



APPENDIX 11 Continued

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. Compared to Snowy Egrets, this bird was about 2" taller and 4" wider wingspan; but size difference only apparent on close examination (but all much smaller than nearby Great Egrets). Plumage all white except for tips of primaries washed with gray. Compared to Snowy Egret, this bird was flatter-crowned, longer-necked and heavier-billed. Bill was long, sl. down-curved and two-toned (gray base; black tip). Legs dull grayish yellow.

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

Not heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

See above.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen all regularly-occurring heron species in N. A.

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

Name (print) : MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 10 SEDUM CT. PUEBLO, CO 81001

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205