

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

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Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: LITTLE BLUE HERON
(Vernacular Name)EGRETTA CAERULEA
(Scientific Name)Date(s): 8-26-93Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: IMMATURELocality: TURK'S POND SWA, NEAR BOAT RAMP Elevation: 4,100 ft.Nearest town: TWO BUTTES County: BACATime(s) observed: 1804-1827 Hrs.Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 23 min (7 min intense; 16 min. casual)

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

NONEwhile watching
other species
too.

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED JANEAL THOMPSON, WALSH, COLO., WHO SAID SHE WOULD
CHECK FOR BIRD NEXT DAY & WOULD FILE INDEPENDENT REPORT, IF SEEN, NO FOLLOW-
UP REPORT AT THIS TIME.

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

PARTLY CLOUDY TO OVERCAST. FULL EXPOSURE TO AVAILABLE
LIGHT - NOT IN SHADOW; SIDE LIGHT.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): SWAROVSKI 8x56 BINOC; BUSHNELL 10-30x50mmDistance, and how measured 35-40 yds est. for 7 min; 120 yds est. for 16 min.If photographed, type of equipment and film: —Who else photographed the bird? —

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

PERCHED IN BRANCHES OF DEAD BUSHES OVER WATER 10 FT. FROM E. SHORE. SITTING
CALMLY, OCCASIONALLY PREENING, STRETCHED LT. WING. FLEW FROM E. SHORE TO NW
CORNER OF POND. WALKED SLOWLY ON SHORE NORTH, THEN SOUTH, CASUALLY STABBING
AT ROCKY SANDY SHORELINE AREA. FLEW TO SOUTH END OF POND, OUT OF SIGHT. NOT

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, seen wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

IMMEDIATE REACTION WHEN STEPPING FROM CAR WAS "SNOWY EGRET" SAME SIZE,
SAME HABITAT & PERCHING STYLE. SCOPED BIRD: SAW BI-COLORED BILL - GRAY BASE, BLACK
TIP ON LONG BILE. LEGS - YELLOW/CLIVE GREEN & LONG. EYE - BLACK PUPIL, YELLOW IRIS
PLUMAGE - PURE WHITE, WITH FEW DARK PRIMARY FEATHERS SEEN ONLY WHEN LEFT
WING WAS STRETCHED OUT TOWARD ME. SIZE CONFIRMED AS A GREAT EGRET
AND GREAT BLUE HERON LANDED NEARBY, BIRD BEING 2/3 TO 1/2 THEIR SIZE RESPEC-
TIVELY.

Description (continued): WHITE FACED IBIS NEARBY; SIMILAR SIZE TO L.B. HERON.
FLEW ACROSS POND; HEAD + NECK TUCKED BACK OVER SHOULDERS,
LEGS EXTENDED BEYOND TAIL.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

NONE

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

RIPARIAN, WETLANDS, MARSH, POND SITUATED IN PRAIRIE + CULTIVATED
LAND SURROUNDING IT; Rocky, sandy shoreline with mud flats
at south end.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? SIGHTING ON BILL + LEGS IMMEDIATELY
ELIMINATED SIMILAR SNOWY EGRET BY CATTLE EGRET, WHOSE BILLS ARE
BLACK OR YELLOW/ORANGE + LEGS BLACK OR YELLOW/BLACK OR ORANGE. L.B. HERON
BILL THICKER THAN SNOWY EGRET + LONGER THAN CATTLE EGRET.
L.B. HERON LORES GRAY/BLuish GRAY CONTINUATION OF BILL.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? L.B. HERONS FEED MORE QUIETLY
THAN SNOWY EGRET.
LITTLE BLUE HERON: (Adult ♀) QUIVERA N.W.R., KANSAS 1992
" CHEYENNE BOTTOMS WILDLIFE AREA, KANSAS 1992
" EVERGLADES N.P., FLORIDA 1992
SNOWY + CATTLE: ABOVE + COLORADO TEXAS GULF COAST 1993

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

- a) at time of observation: Nat. Geo: Birds of North America - used on site to confirm
b) after observation: from initial I.D.

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation _____ from memory _____

Date and time report was written: Aug. 30, 1993 8 pm (1000 hr)

Reporting observer: KARLEEN SCHOFIELD Signature: Karleen Schofield

Address: 33 YATES ST.

DENVER, COLO. 80219 (936-8661)

Return to:
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