

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐

UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

CFO-ORC FILE # 1998-6  
ACCEPTED 7-0  
✓ rec'd 9-29-98

**Species:** Little Blue Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

**Date:** 1 August 1998

**Number seen:** one

**Sex:** ?

**Plumage:** Juvenal

**Locality:** un-named pond, ½ mi. SSE Lochbuie

**Elevation:** about 5000'

**Nearest town:** Lochbuie

**County:** Adams (just 300 meters south of Weld)

**Time observed:** early afternoon

**Duration of observation:** about 1 minute

**Description:** While conducting a Big Day, I found a juvenile Little Blue Heron, which my teammates Chris Wood and Brandon Percival also got to see. It was a white heron with a Snowy Egret nearby. It was slightly bigger than the egret with a stouter, bicolored (grayish and dark) bill. It was standing in fairly deep water, thus only a small portion of its legs were visible. The portion of the legs that was visible was greenish. The bare loreal skin was bluish-gray and the eyes were yellowish. I did not discern whether the bird had dark primary tips. The bird foraged very sedately, not like the often frenetic foraging style of Snowy Egret.

I did not see the bird after this date, despite its continued presence reported by other observers. There were numerous juvenile Snowy Egrets (2-12) present at this site in the first half of August, however.

**Similar species eliminated:** The only real confusion species is Snowy Egret which can be exceedingly similar. This bird had the typical bill shape and pattern of a juvenile Little Blue Heron. Juvenile Snowy Egrets have more completely dark bills and usually show at least a trace of the adult yellow lores. Leg color can be identical in recently-fledged individuals of the two species.

**Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):** No vocalizations heard.

**What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species?** I have seen 1000s of Little Blues and Snowy Egrets across the country.

**Light conditions:** sun overhead

**Optical equipment used:** Kowa 30x

**Distance, and how estimated:** estimated at about 200 meters

**Other observers who saw the bird with you:** Chris Wood and Brandon Percival

**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** I am unsure of this item.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: I did not photograph.

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

a) at time of observation: none      b) after observation: none

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature: 

Address: Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Piccadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: I wrote this from memory on 20 September 1998.