

**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM**

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY)

SPECIES: Little Blue Heron Egretta caerulea  
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: May 20, 1999NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: One SEX: Unknown PLUMAGE: AdultEXACT LOCATION: Environmental Learning Center, along the Poudre RiverCOUNTY: Larimer NEAREST TOWN: Fort Collins ELEVATION: 5200'LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 2 minutes TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 5 pm

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW THE BIRD(S) WITH YOU:

David Leatherman, Fort Collins

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

Brandon Percival, Peter Gent, Mark Janos, mob.

LIGHT CONDITIONS (QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION):

Clear day, light behind the observer during the observation

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

10X binoculars

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 50 yardsWAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? no IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? 

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

Seen flying up the river, coming from the south and heading north and slightly west. Cattail swamps at edge of river along with flooded gravel ponds created excellent wading bird habitat.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

The bird was observed flying. First noted as it came around the bend, and continued flying toward the observers during the next few minutes, until it veered off towards the gravel ponds to the north.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE THE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

The bird was in adult plumage; Distinctive heron flight, though obviously one of the smaller herons; Broad wings, slow flight, extended legs beyond the tail and bent neck. Bill was long and blue-gray. Overall color was slate blue, though head area would be best described as purplish. Legs were long, like most waders, and grayish.

DESCRIBE BIRD'S CALL OR SONG:

It did not call.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

There really was no doubt when we first observed the bird. There really isn't a close comparison, but: Great Blue Heron - this bird was much smaller, had no obvious white in face or dark plumes.

Reddish Egret - this bird was smaller, the color of the neck was purple, not rufous, no plumes, and bill color was bluish gray rather than pinkish with black tip.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?


Have seen hundreds of Little Blue Herons, and 20 or so Reddish Egrets, in all plumages.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

None consulted

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING \_\_\_\_ OR AFTER \_\_XX\_\_ OBSERVATION, AND LATER FROM MEMORY \_\_XX\_\_.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: September 7, 1999

REPORTING OBSERVER: Bill Lisowsky SIGNATURE: 

OBSERVER ADDRESS:

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