

1999 - 12

183

Little Blue Heron - 5 August 1999 - Adams County, Colorado  
 Christopher L. Wood - [zeledonia@worldnet.att.net](mailto:zeledonia@worldnet.att.net)

Red 1/28/00 upl  
 ACCEPT 7-0

# COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - Rarity Report Form

**Common Name:** Little Blue Heron **Scientific Name:** *Egretta caerulea*  
**Number of Individuals:** 1 **Sex:** ? **Age:** immature  
**Locality:** pond SE of Lochbuie exit off I-76 **County:** Adams *held*  
**Date(s) Seen:** 5 August 1999 **Time:** 2:00pm or so  
**Reporting Observer:** Christopher L. Wood, 3465 S. Otis Court, Lakewood, CO 80227  
**Other Observers:** numerous observers reported the bird after this sighting, but many of these sightings may have pertained to an immature Snowy Egret (See my comments to COBIRDS on 8.11.99)

**Light Conditions:** sunny **Optical Equipment:** B&L Elite 10\*42 binoculars & 15-60X B&L Elite scope  
**Distance to Bird:** 150 meters **Duration of Observation:** 15 minutes  
**Habitat:** pond

**Description:** While scanning the pond with my binoculars I saw two medium-sized white herons that I believed were Snowy Egrets. After looking in the scope I discovered one of the birds was a Little Blue Heron. The bird differed from the Snowy Egret in having a thicker bill--especially noticeable at the base. The basal 1/3 of the bill was pale bluish. The legs were completely dark yellow-olive. Finally, the bird had slate-colored primary tips that were visible at some distance.

**Similar Species:** Immature Snowy Egrets never show dark primary tips, have more slender bills, usually have yellow bleeding up the back of dark legs, and do not have a pale bluish base to the bill (although they can show paler bases to the bill).

**Vocalizations:** No.

**Tape recordings / Photos?** No.

**References:** None.

**Description from:** ☒ Contemporary notes; ☐ Later notes; ☐ Memory.

**Experience with Species:** I have seen thousands of Little Blue Herons and Snowy Egrets.

**Are you Positive of the Identification?** Yes.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_