

Lcd 12/18/99
wpl

CFO-ORC FILE # 1999-12

ACCEPT 7-0

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

| X |

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

Species: Little Blue Heron Egretta caerulea
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): Sunday, August 15, 1999

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: subadult?

Locality: Pond east of Lochbuie exit off I-76 Elevation: 4980'

Nearest town: Lochbuie County: Weld

Time(s) observed: 1050 - 1110 DST

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 15 min.

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

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

Chris Wood reported an "immature LBH" (on RBA) several days before.

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

cloudy, diffuse mid-day lighting

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Swarovski 8x56 binoc, Kowa scope TSN-4,
20-60 zoom

Distance, and how measured: 70-100 yards, est.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: na

Who else photographed the bird? ?

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): feeding patiently
along edge of pond in shallow water (at knee level), walking slowly, grace-
fully in contrast to nearby Snowy Egrets (4a, 1i) feeding more actively,
jerkily. It sometimes disappeared behind peninsula of reeds, then
emerged with same smooth gait.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, 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:

(over)

Description (continued): Same size as Snowy Egrets feeding along-side. All dark body above and below except for small white patch of feathers on crown and a line of white from upper throat down anterior neck to mid-neck, at least. Stout, long pointed bill, blue-gray at base, black at outer third. Facial skin gray. Leg color difficult to determine.

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: Pond with high water level covering several acres, surrounded on most edges with dense, deep stands of cattails.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? Reddish Egret - frantic feeder, spreading wings over water, rufous tones head/neck; bill pink/blk.or dark. Imm. grayish with dark bill; somewhat larger in size. Tricolored Heron - also usually feeds more actively than L.B. Adult with dark upper plumage, white belly and rump; Great Blue Heron - much larger size, more white on head and neck, larger yellow bill, white underparts. What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Have seen all the above species several times each in Florida, Kansas, Texas and Colo., but never in this particular plumage.

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

a) National Geo, Audubon Master Series, Audubon Encyclopedia of N.A. Birds, at time of observation: "

b) after observation: "

to learn more about immature plumages/hybrids

This report was written from ~~reports~~ ^{of these species.} made during x, after observation x from memory notes

Date and time report was written: August 30, 1999, typed Dec. 5, 1999

Reporting observer: Karleen Schofield Signature: Karleen Schofield

Address: 33 Yates St. Denver, CO. 80219

Return to:
Bill Prather
C.F.O. Official Records Committee
13810 WCR I
Longmont, Colorado 80504