

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTING

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Red upl 5/20/00

Species: Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea***Date:** 14 May 2000 **Time seen:** 4-4:30 pm**Locality:** Havana Ponds, Rocky Mtn Arsenal, Adams Co.**Lat/long:** 39104 **Optical equipment:** Binocs, telescope 20-60 power**Number of birds seen:** One **Sex:** Unknown **Plumage:** White immature**Light conditions:** Good--cloudy bright**Distance from bird:** 100-300 feet**Weather at time of observation:** Bright cloudy, light wind off and on**Prior weather & number of days since change:** Generally good; 32 deg two nights before with a little rain**Habitat:** reservoir edge**Behavior:** First seen flying with a Snowy Egret to shoreline about 100 feet from our van. Moved, along edge of water, poking into water for food. Walk: plodding, deliberate, one-foot-at-a-time, not dainty, or rushed. During the observation, covered several hundred feet of shoreline before flying on to another section, where it continued the same behavior. First seen beside a Snowy Egret, later next to a Great Blue Heron.**Field marks observed:** Heron by shape and behavior: long slightly curved neck, long legs, long bill.
White plumage.**Size:** About the same size (height, not bulk) as the Snowy Egret beside it.**Shape:** Totally different shape from Snowy; LBH skinnier--slender heron with long crook neck that it held like a Great Blue yrather than a Snowy Egret; smooth feathering, no plumes or crest.**Legs:** Greenish gray.**Bill:** Bluish-gray bill with outer quarter dark. Bluish-gray lores extended up to eye, seemingly continuously from bill.**Plumage:** Overall white. Pale silvery-gray saddle. Shoulders smudged silvery-grayish. This gray tinge not conspicuous, and visibility depended on how bird stood with respect to the light.**Field marks not seen:** This egret did not have dark edging on wings, except possibly one or two bars.**Similar species:** Snowy Egret had plumes on back of head, held head and neck differently, had a chunkier shape and shorter neck, and different posture. Also yellow feet, black legs. Movement different from egrets. Bill and leg color distinguish from Snowy Egret & Reddish Egret. Size and bill color distinguish from white herons, etc.**Prior experience:** Some, in Florida.**Description from:** Notes taken in field**Observed by** 10 members of Spring Count party.Urling & Hugh Kingery
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