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CFO-ORC FILE # 5-91-11

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD : : UNUSUAL RECORD :x :

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

Species: Tricolored Heron : Egretta tricolor
(Scientific name)

Date(s): 8/17 and 8/21 (Photographed). 1991

Number of birds seen: One Sex: unk. Plumage: Immature

Locality: Hidden Lake Elevation: 5200'

Nearest town: Arvada County: Adams

Time(s) observed: 6:30 am on 8/17. late afternoon on 8/21.

Duration of observation: 1 hour first time. 30 minutes 2nd time

Others who saw the bird with you (names and addresses): David Martin. 9330 W. 90th Dr.. Broomfield. 80021

Others who saw the bird independently: Diana Mullineaux (found the bird). Mark Janos. Dick Schottler. and many others.

Light conditions in relationship to bird: Saw in early morning light and late afternoon sun. Sun was at my back when photographing.

Optical equipment used: 10 x binoculars. 20 x spotting scope.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: Pentax K1000 camera. Sigma 5.6 400 mm lens. Fujichrome 100 film

Who else photographed the bird? None

Describe the bird's behavior: Foraging on lakeshore, often with Snowy Egrets. Observed in flight several times.

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 saw in the field.

A small heron, thinner than a snowy egret, but perhaps slightly taller because of it's long neck. Unmistakable with sharply defined snow-white belly, and white on underside of neck. There was a thin dark streak extending down the center of the underside of the neck, terminating in a diamond-shaped patch at the base of the neck. The sides of the neck, head, wing coverts

and patches on the back were a rich chestnut color. The flight feathers and most of the back were blue-gray. The legs and proximal half of the bill were yellow.

In flight, the tail was white (diagnostic for the species).

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): Silent.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: Lakeshore of a relatively traffic-free body of water.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? No other heron is likely to be confused with this well-marked species.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Have seen all North American Herons. Have seen Tricolored Herons previously in Texas, Florida and Mexico.

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

a) at time of observation: None

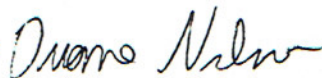
b) after observation: National Geographic has a fine illustration of the immature Tricolored Heron.

This report was written from reports made during (x), after observation (), from memory ().

Date and time report was written: 9:30 pm, 1/14/92

Reporting observer: Duane Nelson

Signature:



Address: 1619 Ford St. Golden, CO 80401

All reports will be maintained with the Curator of Zoology, Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, CO 80205.

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SPECIES: Tricolored Heron
(Vernacular Name)Egretta tricolor
(Scientific Name)DATE(S): 16 Aug 1991 TIME OF OBSERVATION: 11:30 AM TO 11:45 AMEXACT LOCATION: Northwest shore of Hidden Lake, Westminster.NEAREST TOWN: in Westminster COUNTY: Adams

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

Diana and Donal MullineauxAlan Hay (several days later)OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: B & L 8x42 binocs & Bushnell Spacemaster Scope w/20X eyWEATHER CONDITIONS: Partly cloudyBIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: Sun high in sky at 90° angle.DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 100 yards (estimate)NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: ? PLUMAGE: near AdultBEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: Bird resting. Virtually motionless during period of observation but moved head and neck on occasion.

HEAD & NECK (forehead, crown, auricular & malar regions, median line, etc.):

Mostly slate blue but w/ broken white lines down sides of neck. Some reddish feather ends.

EYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.):

LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): Long dark bill fairly thick at baseLEGS & FEET: Dark.

UPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.):

Slate blue.

UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.):

White belly. Slate blue sides & throat.

RETRICES (inner, middle & outer tail feathers; color, pattern, shape, etc.):

WINGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.):

Slate blue. w/ thin white fore-edge.

VOCALIZATION (call/song, method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight):

None

HABITAT: In 6"-high grass near shore of lake.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

Coloration wrong for other herons. Nearly same size (very slightly taller) than Snowy Egrets at its side.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

This species seen on several trips to Florida and the Texas Gulf Coast.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

Master Guide to Birding; Nat. Geog. Field Guide

THIS REPORT WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING AFTER ☒ OBSERVATION; FROM ☐ MEMORY

NAME: PHILIP HAYES SIGNATURE: Philip T. Hayes DATE: 20 Aug 1991

