

Little Blue Heron  
20 Jul 1933  
Wapello Lake, Davis Co., IA  
I. T. Bode  
DuMont 1934

Record Number: 81-LM  
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

DuMont, P.A. 1934. The American Egret and Little Blue Heron in Iowa during 1933. IBL 4:4-5.

VOTE (1981): 3-III, 4-IV

IV, what color?

III, leg and bill color obs.

III, Presumably the leg and bill color was satisfactorily reported to DuMont, although not mentioned in the article.

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DuMont, P. A. 1934. The American Egret and Little Blue Heron in Iowa during 1933.  
Iowa Bird Life 4:4-5

*The American Egret and Little Blue Heron in Iowa during 1933.*—The writer summarized ('Iowa Bird Life', II, pp. 48-50) the invasion of the American Egret or "White Crane" into Iowa during the late summer of 1932. An effort was made to secure reports of this bird and of the Little Blue Heron in Iowa during the past summer, 1933. Comparably, the post-breeding flight this year was somewhat less extensive than in 1932 both as to area visited and maximum number seen. However, earliest individuals were reported on approximately the same date both seasons.

Numerous trips were made by the writer and D. J. Bullock in all parts of Polk County during August and September. While many ponds which contained water last year were dry, a few remained which seemed entirely favorable as feeding areas. However, no egrets were seen.

The earliest observation during the summer was by I. T. Bode, State Game Warden, who reported seeing three juvenile Little Blue Herons at Wanella Lake, Davis County, July 20. The color of the legs and bill, and the smaller size were noted. ] 1

Mrs. W. G. MacMartin, Tama, reported one American Egret at Chelsea Pond, two miles west of Chelsea, Tama County, July 30. On August 1, seven were present at the same place. On August 22, Mrs. MacMartin reported 11 American Egrets at Chelsea Pond and one or two about the ponds two miles southeast of Tama. These birds were seen until August 26. John Kennedy, Des Moines, observed four American Egrets at Chelsea Pond, August 18. Thealtis Alberts, of Iowa City, saw five American Egrets four miles west of Chelsea on August 13. The birds were in a small pond near Highway No. 6.

A single bird was noted by Robert Stewart, August 19, at Brenton's Slough, 12 miles northwest of Des Moines in Polk County. Probably the same bird was seen the next day by Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Palas, and Mrs. John E. Stewart, in the same locality.

The news release letter of the Iowa Fish and Game Department for August 17 contained a report of birds seen in the Conesville Marsh, Louisa County, by W. E. Hicks, a deputy warden; 17 American Egrets were listed, presumably seen during August.

Reports of egrets seen along the Des Moines River near Eldon, Wapello County, were received by J. Wilbur Dole. On September 20, a trip was made into that territory by Mr. Dole and P. S. Junkin. No egrets were noted. However, local residents confirmed the statements that several "large white birds as large as blue cranes" had been seen flying about during August. Two American Egrets were seen in that locality on September 5 by Malcolm McDonald, of Fairfield.

While there are several Iowa specimens of the American Egret, there are no authentic specimens of the Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Wood Ibis, or Louisiana Heron.—PHILIP A. DU MONT, Des Moines, Iowa.