

Little Blue Heron

6 Apr 1971

north of Harper's Ferry, Allamakee Co., IA

Fred Leshar

Leshar 1971

Record Number: 81-LT

Classification: A-D

REFERENCE

Leshar, F. 1971. Little Blue Heron in northeast Iowa. IBL  
41:91.

VOTE (1981): 7-III

III, good details. The only solid sight record of the bunch.

III, one obs.

III, single observer.

III, good description by good observer.

Leshner, F. 1971. Little Blue Heron in northeast Iowa. Iowa Bird Life 41:91

Little Blue Heron in Northeast Iowa -- On April 6, 1971 I was fortunate to see an adult Little Blue Heron near Wexford, a few miles north of Harper's Ferry, Iowa. 8

When I first saw the bird I was 600-700 feet away, atop a bluff to the north of Wexford Creek. The bird was on the edge of a spring-fed pond south of the creek. From this distance I rather casually identified the bird as a Green Heron.

The second time I saw the bird from about 100 feet. I noted a slate-blue bird larger than a Green Heron (but not as large as a Great Blue Heron) with a neck longer than that of a Green Heron. Before he flew, I was able to note that there was no white on the head, as the Great Blue Heron shows most of the time. From this distance I examined the bird with both 7X35 binoculars and 40X scope. With the scope I noted a light blue bill, darker at the tip.

The third time I saw the bird from about 50 feet, using 7X35 binoculars. I noted some reddish-brown on the neck and head, dark green legs, and a slender white plume extending from the crown of the head down the center of the back of the neck. From this close distance I was able to examine the bird for about five minutes in good sunlight. This bird was in a wooded swamp up to two feet in depth, surrounded on three sides by popple type thicket and on the fourth by a bluff. Vegetation included water-cress and cattails. -- FREDERICK LESHER, 509 Winona St., La Crosse, Wisconsin.