

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Cattle Egret

How Many?1

Location?Willow Slough, Mills Co.

Habitat?flying around marsh

Date?27 Mar 1988

Time?approx. 2:45-2:50 p.m.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA  
50010

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:I was looking over the thousands of waterfowl that were on the lake when I noticed what I thought was a small, white heron flying around near some geese. I watched the bird for the next several minutes as it circled the lake and then took off to the south. Even in flight, I could see that the bird had long, dark legs and a rather thick, yellowish bill. The rest of the bird was entirely white. The bird also struck me as being too short-necked to be a Snowy Egret. The bird also flew with very rapid, even wingbeats which is characteristic of Cattle Egrets.

Similar species and how eliminated:The small size eliminates Great Egret. The heavy, yellowish bill, dark legs, and short-necked appearance eliminates Snowy Egret and immature Little Blue Heron(not very likely at this date anyhow).

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were good with the sun behind me. Estimated viewing distance was 100-150 yards most of the time. I used Nikon 8x23 binoculars and a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen numerous Cattle Egrets and the other white herons in Iowa and many other locations.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?written at 8 p.m. on 27 Mar 1988