

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

MOORE

1. Species Snowy Egret 2. Number 1
  3. Location 2 mi East of South entrance to Sweet Marsh then 2 1/2 mi South, ~~the~~ across road.
  4. Date: August 30, 1980 5. Time Bird Seen: 4:30 pm. to 5:00 pm.
  6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): Size was of small egret and had egret shap. Color of plumage was white, with black bill and a yellow loreal spot in front of the eyes. Feet were yellow, legs black. In the same field and at the same time, all within about 50'-75' of each other was the above Snowy Egret, a Cattle Egret (told by yellow bill and yellowish legs and squatted posture) and an immature Little Blue Heron (told by the bluish gray bill and greenish colored legs) This is the first time that I know of that all three small White herons have been seen side-by-side at the same time in Iowa.
  7. Description of voice, if heard: None heard
  8. Description of behavior: Heron-like behavior, feeding in short grasses and marshy areas in field.
  9. Habitat - general: grassy - ~~marshy~~ field  
specific: grassy - marshy field with cattle
  10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: See question 6 above for notation that all three small white herons were seen together; Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret and immature Little Blue Heron. What a sight.
  11. Distance (how measured)? 50' to 60' (Eye)
  12. Optical equipment: 7x35mm Bausch + Lomb roof prism binoculars, 20x Bushnell Spacemaster telescope
  13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): clear, sunny when first seen with sun to my right and behind bird as I faced it. I was facing South to Southeast and later facing North as I approached bird from different angles.
  14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Have seen species in large numbers (10-15 birds) along Atlantic coast in Virginia and North Carolina. (at a time)
  15. Other observers: Tom Stone; before that Bob Myers and Russell Hays who were the ones who tipped us off as to their location.
  16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes.
  17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Tom Stone, Russell Hays, Bob Myers.
  18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Field Guide to the Birds, East, Peterson; Birds of North America, Robbins; Used to verify description as seen and noted.
  19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 hours
- Signature: Lance D. Moore Address: 264 Western Ave.  
Date: August 30, 1980 City, State: Waterloo, IA 50701