

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Snowy Egret (Leucophoyx thula) How many? 1Location? Along road going to wild life <sup>area</sup> and boat ramp near (E. of) New Albin, Allamakee Co.Type of habitat? Flooded river bottomWhen? date(s): May 30, 1982 time: 1:25 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave., Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Noothers before or after you: No

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I was scanning the trees ~~in~~ on the edge of an opening near New Albin trying to get a fairly accurate count of the Great Egrets that were sitting in the trees and flying near the opening area. I saw that one of the Egrets looked a lot smaller than the rest of the birds and decided to put on the 40x eyepiece. The bird was white all over with a smaller body than the Great Egrets nearby. This bird also had a black bill and black legs. As it shifted its position it raised one of its feet and I saw that the whole foot was a very distinctive yellow color. Also noticeable with the 40x eyepiece was the yellow skin at the base of the bill and around its eye. The whole time I watched the bird it was preening and did not fly. The display plumes were not very evident but I did see them a couple of times on the bird's back and neck but the bird seemed to keep them relaxed the majority of the time. No voice was heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: Cattle Egret has yellow legs and feet and is squattier looking. Great Egret is larger and lacks the yellow feet and has a yellow bill. Immature Little Blue Heron lacks the yellow feet.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Excellent viewing with sun full on bird. Viewed from approx. 150 yards through Bushnell Spacemaster telescope with both a 20x and a 40x eyepiece.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen several Snowy Egrets, Great Egrets, Little Blue Herons (imm.) and 3 ~~the~~ Cattle Egrets previous to this.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 4 1/2 hours this form completed? 6 hours

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