

Documentation

Snowy Egret - 1

31 May 1986

Settling Ponds, S. of Council Bluffs, Iowa

Description: The white egret stood beside a Cattle Egret + was taller + more slender than the cattle Egret, even when the latter was alarmed. Bill thin, black. Bird has a bit of a crest behind the ~~head~~ head. ~~later~~ Later the bird flew and then the dark legs + strikingly yellow feet were visible.

Similar species: Great Egret + Cattle Egret have yellow bills. The little Blue Heron's bill shouldn't look so black + thin, + in any case that species lacks yellow feet.

Viewing conditions: Late evening, about 8:00 pm. Sun was low but still shone on birds at least for the first view of them. (+ the fact the Snowy stayed by the ~~the~~ Cattle Egret let me judge that light was plenty good enough to see bill + leg color). Birds on high cross dike running E-W while I stood on gravel road. 150 yard ?? I used ~~the~~ 20x telescope. Birds were basically ~~west~~^{east} of me, at first a bit north of east + then they flew south. Good light, distance far but not too far for the optical equipment. No ~~ey~~ books used. No other observers. Notes taken while seeing the birds + added to after they flew.

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