

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Snowy Egret **MYERS** 2. Number 1
3. Location approx. 3mi. south of Sweet Marsh, Iowa
4. Date: Aug. 30, 1980 5. Time Bird Seen: 1:30 P.M. to 2:15 P.M.
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):

The main details were:

- 1.) white heron not as big as great egret (also present)
- 2.) black bill - actually blue-black at very close range (not two-tone)
- 3.) black legs
- 4.) yellow feet - slight greenish tinge
- 5.) sleeker looking bird than the immature little blue that was also present
- little blue had greenish legs + feet and a lighter bill with black end (two-tone)
- 6.) some taller than cattle egret also present -
- cattle egret had yellow bill + yellowish legs

7. Description of voice, if heard:
8. Description of behavior: wading and feeding in shallow marsh
9. Habitat - general: cow pasture with marshy areas
specific: water for marsh comes from natural artesian wells.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
An immature little blue was also present + next day a cattle egret was with the snowy and separating all three was easy
11. Distance (how measured)? closest was 30ft. 12. Optical equipment: B&K 7X35's
(stepped off) and Bushnell 30X spotting scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
light was excellent and sun no problem as we had time to view bird from different angles
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
my first snowy but identification is easy and I fail to see need of full documentation
15. Other observers: Russ Hoyt + I found it (+ the little blue)
later Francis Moore + Tom Stone found both plus cattle egret
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
every one who saw it knew what it was
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Petersens + (Robbins + Singer) confirmed what we knew
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 week
- Signature: Robert X. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.
Date: Sept. 13, 1980 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa 50701