

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Cattle egret 2. Number: 3

3. Location Cone Marsh, Louisa Co, IA

4. Date: 8-21-78 5. Time Bird seen: 7:40 AM to 8:20 AM.

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):

small rather thick-necked tern. plumage pure white, bill yellow, legs v. dark green (or black?). Bill about same length as head.

weedy wet pasture at edge of large area of marshes, ponds, riverbottom woods and fields.

7. Description of voice, if heard: _____

8. Description of behavior: in weedy pasture. were following a large sow + picking up insects (= hog egret?!) - one perched on back of hog for a while; flew to

9. Habitat - general: tree at edge of marsh, perched, then returned. Several specific: trees flushed, circled pasture, returned to hog. wimbeat

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: quite rapid. yellow bill, dark legs rule out all other species but great egret. Small size, stout bill, rapid wimbeat, habit of following stock, ~~rule out that species.~~

11. Distance (how measured)? 70 feet (est)

12. Optical equipment: 8x40 binocs

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Slight fog; sun directly behind obs.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

have seen many of both spp. in (10) in MD, VA, FLA: have field experience w/ all other E. NAM terns.

15. Other observers:

Birds discovered 8/20 by R. Hollis + C. Bunderf

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: see (15)

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

None

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? notes made on the spot.

Michael C Newlon

Address: 408 Wales St

Signature

Date: 8-21-78

City, State: Jessie City IA 52240