

What species? Snowy Egret (Egretta thula) How many? 1

Location? Forney Lake, Fremont, County, Iowa

Type of habitat? Marshy lake with cat-tails, other emergent vegetation

When? date(s): July 14, 1985 time: 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. appx.

Who? your name and address: Robert Cecil 327 S. 6th, Keokuk, Iowa 52632

others with you: W. Ross Silcock, Francis L. Moore, Steve Dinsmore

others before or after you: Mark and Beth Proescholdt ??

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.

Among a number of smaller white, heron-type birds, we observed one with a distinctly black, dagger-like bill. It was clearly different than the much lighter bill of the Little Blue immatures also present. The bill of the Little blues was also lighter at the base, unlike the uniform black of the Snowy. The size of the Snowy was considerably smaller than that of the Great blues also present, but about identical with the size of the Little blues. When the bird flew, the yellow feet against the black legs was unmistakable. We were able to observe these features several times during the morning.

No sounds or other significant features were observed.

Similar species and how eliminated: Immature Little blue is similar. This bird, however, had dark/black bill, conspicuous yellow feet--features not shared by the Little blue.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Closest view, perhaps 100 yds. Lighting excellent, sun to back most of time.
Optics: Nikon spotter at 20x.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen many of both species (Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron) along western Gulf Coast.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? not made this form completed? 24 hours

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