

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Cattle Egret 2. Number: 1  
3. Location Os M River Valley, S. of Saylorville Lake, along Nw 26th St.  
4. Date: 8/2/84 5. Time Bird seen: 6<sup>05</sup> to 6<sup>15</sup>

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 egret with characteristic thickened bill, head & neck. This one washed with rusty across bill, head, back.

7. Description of voice, if heard:

8. Description of behavior:

9. Habitat - general: River flood plain, open  
specific: small, permanent pool with reedy shore, surrounded by short grass

10. Similarly appearing species, which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: Little blue & snowy have dark bills.

11. Distance (how measured)? 20 yds, (approx.) 12. Optical equipment: 7x50

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

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: 10 yrs. in South Florida

15. Other observers: none

16. Did the others agree with your identification? —

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —

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

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 hrs.

Signature Benz Engelbaker Address: 6492 Jones Francis Pl  
Date: 8/2/84 City, State: Johnston, Va, 50131

I believe I saw this species about four weeks ago in the same locality, only at a much greater distance and could not confirm. This is within one mile of the recently established great blue colony, and some area where american egrets and yellow-crowns have been present all summer.