

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Little Blue Heron How many? 1Location? Peterson Pits, Story County, IowaType of habitat? Riparian area with sparse vegetation and several large dug-out pits, most of which held variable amounts of water.When? date(s): May 8, 1982 time: 12:35 PM to 12:37 PMWho? your name and address: John C. Robinson / 1401 Oakdene St. / Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206others with you: Bob Myers

others before or after you: _____

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.

The bird was seen flying overhead. An adult, it was of a uniform dark, slate-gray color, especially in the wings (Great Blue Herons usually show a 2-tone coloration in the wings). Its wingbeat was faster than that of a Great Blue Heron. The legs and bill were also dark. The legs extended out beyond the tail and the neck was in the ~~stretched~~ "S" position typical of the Ardeidae. The neck was slimmer and longer than that of the Green Heron. Voice was not heard.

Green Heron is smaller, has orange legs, a stouter neck and white areas on its ventral surface.

Louisiana Heron shows conspicuous white areas on the ventral surface.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Great Blue Heron is much larger, with a two-tone coloration in the wings, a slower wingbeat, and white areas on the upper neck and head.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Conditions were good as bird was flying away from the sun which was overhead & slightly behind us. 20-50 yards when first sighted.

Pentax 10x50 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen all of the herons mentioned in several or all of the following states: Iowa, Virginia, Maryland, Texas & Missouri.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? 2 hours this form completed? 5 hours

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