

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Snowy Egret How many? 1Location? NW corner of Hendrickson Marsh, Story CountyType of habitat? shallow mudflat area ~~near~~ grassy marshWhen? date(s): 28 March, 1985 time: _____ to 4:30 PMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010others with you: _____others before or after you: Hank Zaletel, Colo

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.

A medium sized heron about 2-2½' feet tall (estimated)
The long legs, slender body with long neck and the bill shape
identified it as a heron.

The bird was pure white in color except for the narrow, long,
black bill and the black legs.

The bird was seen mostly in flight. It was only seen briefly
on the ground before it flew out of sight. In flight,
the bird folded its neck up, a typical trait of egrets.

I was not able to pick out the yellow feet in flight
or when it landed, due to distance and light.

Similar species and how eliminated:
Told from other egrets and Little Blue Heron by slender black
bill and black legs, and size.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NoIf yes, explain: _____

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

Light was poor - cloudy day - sky 100% overcast. Heat waves rising
off ground made long-range viewing difficult. Viewing distance
50-150 feet. I used a B&L 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen all egrets and imm.
Little Blue Heron before.References and persons consulted before writing description: NGS Field Guide to Birds of North AmericaHow long before field notes made? 24 hours this form completed? 1 week

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