

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Snowy Egret How many? 1Location? Elk Rock State Park, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion CountyType of habitat? mudflat area on reservoirWhen? date(s): 21 April, 1985 time: 10:00 AM to 10:30 AMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames IA 50010others with you: Steve Richards, Amesothers before or after you: Carl Bendorf, Iowa City

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.

We first noticed the bird because of its smaller size as it fed with Great Egrets on a mud flat.

We approached to within 75 yards and noted the following remarks; noticeably smaller than nearby ~~Great~~ Great Egrets.

legs were long and dark - feet, seen well only in flight were clearly lighter in color than legs - they were yellowish.

head, neck, body, wings and tail were all white in color.

When the bird fed, it crept along the shallow water and darted its neck out to grab food - a typical heron action.

When the bird flew, its legs and neck remained mostly outstretched.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Other egrets by size combined with dark bill and black legs with yellow feet.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: —

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

Light was fair - partly cloudy sky. Estimated viewing distance of 75-150 yards, varying as the bird moved about. Used a BTL 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen all 3 egret sp. in Iowa before.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? — this form completed? 4 days

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