

Middlewestern Prairie Region
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species little blue heron - imm 2. Number: 1
3. Location Cone Marsh, Louisa Co, IA
4. Date: 8-13-78 5. Time Bird seen: ~10 AM to ~10:30 AM
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, slender-necked heron, much smaller than great egret (in same pond but at some distance away). Plumage: pure white. Bill: long, slender; pale grey with distal 1/3 black. Legs: ~~black~~ greenish-grey; pale.
7. Description of voice, if heard: —
8. Description of behavior: wading slowly, nearly belly deep in large, shallow, algae filled pond. Did not associate with group of great blue herons + 1 grt. egret
9. Habitat - general: large shallow algae-filled pond; part of a much larger
specific: area of marsh, ponds, Riverbottom woods and fields.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Small size, bill + leg color rule out great egret (large; yellow bill, black legs); Snowy egret (smaller black bill, black legs + yellow feet), cattle egret (thicker neck, yellow bill), great white heron (much larger, yellow bill + legs), white phase reddish egret (bulkier neck, pink bill & dk tip, pink legs).
11. Distance (how measured)?
100 yds (est)
12. Optical equipment:
8x40 binocs, 25x60 scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
slightly foggy day; sun to side of line from obs. to bird.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
have seen many imm little blues in MD, VA, NC, FLA; have seen all of the spp in (10) above.
15. Other observers: Rich DeCoster
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: ?
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
none
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? this description above transcribed from notes made on spot.
Michael C Newlin Address: 408 Wales St
Signature
Date: August 21, 1978 City, State: Jawa City IA 52240