

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION
OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

maybe legs, and feet not seen
NStt

1. Species: Snowy Egret
2. Number: 1
3. Location: Lake Manawa, southeast quarter of lake
4. Date: 23 April 1978
5. Time bird seen: 6:00 P.M. to 6:15 P.M.
6. Description: Rather tall bird with all white feathers with a slight cresting on the back of the head; black bill, black feet. ??
7. Description of voice: none heard
8. Description of behavior: The bird stood completely still during the 15 minute period of observation. -Janet
9. Habitat--general: Standing along shore of lake in shallow water near a muskrat den.

--specific: Lake shore environment with some reeds and cattails along shore plus other vegetation growing in shallow water where bird was observed.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7, & 8, Explain:

Approximately 16-15 feet to the west of the Snowy stood an American Egret which was identified by its yellow bill and much larger size. By comparing the field marks and size of both, they could both be identified.
11. Distance (how measured)? Approximately 100 yards, based on eye judgement.
12. Optical equipment: Bushnell, 7X35 binoculars
13. Light: Bright afternoon sunlight, viewed bird from a northern to southern angle perpendicular to the sunlight.
14. Previous experience with the species and similarly appearing species: One other sighting of a Snowy Egret 1 mile north of Charles City, Iowa, on the Red Cedar River, 12 April 1977.
15. Other observers: My wife, 2 other birders who were observing the birds when we stopped at the same location.
16. Did others agree with your identification: Yes.
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: The 2 birders who were on the location preceding us.
18. Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

We were fairly sure that the two species were egrets because of their size and white plumage, then we consulted Peterson's Field Guide and shared our identification with the other two birders referred to above.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

5 days later, 28 April 1978

Larry D. Brown