

# DOCUMENTATION FORM

## For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

Snowy Egret

Found on Route 30, west of Boone, SW side of Des Moines River

It was in a flooded, flood plain field

Located on 05-09-93 at prox. 9:30 am

by.....Maridel Jackson, 410 SW Westview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021-2727

Jane Clark of Des Moines, IA was with me.

Ann Johnson and E & E Armstrong tried to relocate it same day, but weeds were high and it did not reappear.

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As we were driving west on Route 30 to look for a rufous hummingbird that had been reported, I noticed several herons and egrets SW of the river. One stood out as it was much smaller. We turned around and went back. The bird was moving around in the area in front of the weeds looking for food. It was a much smaller bird, thinner appearance and white with an obvious all black bill and black legs. As it moved in the water, it's yellow feet were visible.

I have seen lots of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets (which were there also) and this bird was much smaller. A white phase Little Blue has a bluish bill and blue-greenish legs. A white phase Reddish is very unlikely but does not have a totally black bill. A Cattle Egret has a different stance and I have seen lots of them also.

Jane and I discussed why it was a Snowy as we looked at it. There was no disagreement, we just examined it's identifying features.

It was a clear, sunny day. The distance was approximately 300 to 500 feet. We both had at least 8 x 40 binoculars and scopes.

We had just seen all species in Texas earlier in the year, plus some are common in Iowa and as previously mentioned, Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets were with it.

Documentation written on May 12, 1993. I wrote up my notes at the time I was looking at the bird.