

Cattle Egret - 2

Sept 6, 7, 8, 1979

Willow Slough, NE Mills County, Iowa

Description: White. Bills shorter than Great Egrets present, pale but not as yellow as those of the Great Egrets. Faces fatter.

Behavior: before + after sunset, perched in foot-pools of cattails, near the edge of the ~~bed~~ cattail beds. One shifted around a lot one evening, walking in the cattails - not on the ground, but on cattails.

Similar species: resembles all white herons + egrets. By this time I had some experience looking for dark tips on the bills, + I felt these were absent. Eliminates Little Blue Heron + Reddish Egret. Light Bill eliminates Snowy Egret. I will assume a Great White Egret was not present. At times Great Egrets fed near these egrets, ~~allowing~~ allowing the comparisons given above. I wish I could have been sure of the leg color, but it was hard to see what was ~~the~~ egret leg + what was cattail.

Distance: light: All the way across the width of the slough, seen w/ 40x telescope. Near sunset. Light good while it lasted - which wasn't long.

Experience: This summer I've been practicing on white herons!

written Nov 30 from  
notes taken Sept 7.

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