

RCM 21 JUN 83-011 1983-19 wfo

Species: Great Egret
 (Vernacular name)

Casmerodius albus egretta
 (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): May 7, 1983 Time Bird Seen: 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Locality: North side of Pelican Lake; ~10 mi N Ouray, Utah
Nearest town, county and state: Uinta County

Optical equipment: None (eyes)

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: — Plumage: —

Light conditions: excellent - clear skies

Distance from bird, and how measured: 20 ft - estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Flew over a number of times in 1 hr period

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Cattail Marsh

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address)

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Fairly large, all white egret or heron. It had yellow bill which was quite long. Legs and feet were all black.

I first noticed it because it had a slower wing beat than the Snowies we normally see in Utah. I did not see it stationary, but while it was fishing in waters in waist deep water it ~~it~~ flew back and forth directly over me (lower than 20ft) several times. Apparently I was not considered a threat in the water (I phenomenon I've noticed with other birds in marshes).

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None

List similar species and how you eliminated them: (it is the bird I saw in following)

Snowy egret — it lacked black bill & yellow feet and was larger.

Cattle egret — it was larger and had longer bill.

immature Little Blue

Heron — it was larger & had black legs & no black tip on bill

Prior experience with this and similar species: Yes - in Iowa and other points in the South and Midwest.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memor

NAME (print): Sherwood Casjens

Mailing address: 1360 2nd Ave, Salt Lake City, Ut. 84103

Signature: [Signature]

Return to: UFO RECORDS COMMITTEE
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