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Lat/long _____ Reporter _____ Sci Name _____
 Habitat _____ Record type _____ Serial No. 83-046
 Date/time _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Great Egret
 Scientific Name Casmerodius albus
 Sight date 19 Apr 83 time 1325 duration 15 min.
 Distance from bird 200-300 m.
 Light conditions good, side lighting
 Optical equip. 20x spotting scope
 Photo. equip. —
 Number of this species seen 1
 Notes made at time of sighting Date this report was prepared.
 Notes made later from memory
 Photo available Photo enclosed 21 Apr 1983

Weather at time of this observation.
Partly cloudy, 60°, light sw winds
 Prior weather & number of days since change
A front from the sw moved thru this area the previous day. Scattered showers & wind.
 Locality
Minersville Reservoir, Beaver Co. North end.

Male Adult Age unk. Basic Plumage Light Phase
 Female Subadult ♀ or Imm Breeding Dark Phase
 Sex Unk. Juv/Imm _____ year bird Eclipse Molting

Description of bird. Size, Colors, all field marks. OBSERVED - Unique features of this bird, if any.

Subject bird was approximately 3 feet tall, slender in appearance with all-white plumage and long neck and legs. Overall appearance (size & shape) was very similar to a Great Blue Heron. The bill was yellowish about 4 or 5 inches long, straight, narrow, and acuminate. The neck was long and slender, ~~is~~ nearly half of the total body length. The body was quite slender with long white plumes extending from mid-back to the tail. The tail was very short and rounded. The legs were black, very long (46 inches), and slender. The feet were not observed.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

Feet - bird was standing in shallow water.

Variations from expected field marks.

none.

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Snowy Egret is much smaller with black bill, a much shorter neck, and a more compact appearance.

Cattle Egret is much smaller with a short neck, proportionally shorter bill, and yellowish to grayish legs. Breeding plumage includes orange feathers on crown, neck, and upper back.

Immature Little Blue Heron - grayish bill with black tip, grayish legs.

White-phase Reddish Egret - flesh colored bill with black tip, grayish legs.

Behavior of this bird. Include names of other birds with this one and any interaction.

Bird was feeding alone along a marshy section of shoreline.

Bird moved very slow and with deliberate movements.

Would stand motionless in a forward leaning stance for long periods (5 minutes one time) waiting for fish. Several ducks & coots were feeding in the water nearby, but no interaction.

Habitat this location and near by or adjacent habitat if significant.

Marshy area of grass and sedge on the north end of reservoir.

Describe birds song or sounds.

not heard.

Names of other observers. A/C + phone:

none

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I have observed Great Egrets many times along the west coast & in the SE states.

I am very familiar with the 4 small white egrets/heron, having observed them all in several states.

Print name & mailing address below

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