

## VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Little Blue Heron                      Scientific Name: Egretta caerulea  
 Date: August 10, 1985 Time: 12:00-12:15      Length of time observed: 15 minutes  
 Number: 1                      Age: immature                      Sex:  
 Location: Blackhawk Duck Club      just west of the Salt Lake Airport  
                     Salt Lake County  
 Latilong: 5 or 6                      Elevation (if known): about 4309  
 Distance to bird: to within 20 feet      Light conditions: sunny  
 Optical equipment: scope and binoculars  
 Weather: clear, warm and sunny  
 Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including  
                     size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

The bird was similiar in size to a Snowy Egret. The feathers were white except for a very slight tinge of smoky gray to the tips of the primaries. This was hardly noticable.

The bill was gray at the base (a<sub>p</sub>proximately 2/3) and had a black tip. The lores were gray all the way to the eye. It appeared as if the gray of the lores were a continuation of the gray of the base of the bill. The iris of the eye was yellowish and stood out against the gray lores. The legs were the same color from the front and back, and are hard to d<sub>e</sub>scribe in words. They were sort of a murky combination of green, yellow and dark gray.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: None heard

Behavior: I first noticed the bird when it flew into a shallow pond. It slowly and methodically moved toward a small clump of reeds. It would stay behind the reeds rather motionless, then slowly move out about 20 feet into the open then slowly back to the reeds. The entire time I observed the bird it slowly stalked prey.

Habitat: Open marshy area- in a shallow pond next to a fresh water canal.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Immature Snowy Egrets are similiar but were eliminated by the gray lores (these are yellow on the Snowy Egret) and by the thick bill. (Snowy Egrets have thinner bills) Snowy Egrets have a different way of feeding.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I am familiar with Snowy Egrets in Utah and Little Blue Herons from several trips in their range.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

I have discussed this species with Guy McCaskie in the past and with Paul Lehmen immediately after the observation. They didn't influence my description but rather taught me what to look

Significance of record in this area or the state: for.

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting \_\_\_\_\_ notes made later \_\_\_\_\_ from memory \_\_\_\_\_  
This description was made immediately after the sighting. \_\_\_\_\_

Observer: Ella Sorensen, Jeremy Sorensen Signature: *Ella Sorensen*

Address: 3868 Marsha Drive  
West Valley City, Utah  
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Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared: August 10, 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen  
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