

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Bird name (common & scientific): Green-backed heron *Butorides striatus*

Date & time of sighting: 4 September 1993, morning and mid-day

Length of time observed: Many minutes

Number of birds observed: 5

Age & Sex: adults

Lat/Long, and Location: St. George area: 3 at Southgate Golf Course pond.
Elevation: 1 at Old Cotton Mill pond, Washington.
1 at Gunlock Reservoir, south end.

Distance to bird: Var. Closest were 50 feet away

Light conditions: Excellent, various angles

Optical equipment: 10 x 40 Bausch & Lomb Custom binoculars

Weather: Sunny

Description of bird:
-- Green-backed heron (see books). Some had brighter orange legs than others.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: silent

Behavior: Wading on muddy edge of pond, flying to pondside trees, perched on snag in open lake, flying overhead and landing in dense riparian thicket.

Habitat: Muddy shoreline of golf course pond adjoining thin but dense riparian woodland strip, riparian strip near pond adjoining to desert scrub and rural suburbia, snag in a reservoir.

Previous experience with this and similar species:
This was a common bird in West Africa, where I spent two years. I've also seen it in Texas and Washington.

Significance of record in this area or the state:
The reason I am submitting this form is not that the bird is so dreadfully rare, but that there were so many in the area simultaneously. Perhaps this indicates a post-breeding dispersal, but I'll leave that to you.

Date this form was prepared: 22 September 1993

Observer: David Salas Wheeler
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Phone: (801) 484-7319

Signature: 

Other observers who independently identified this bird:
Dave Thompson alerted me to the presence of this species after his views earlier in the week. My wife identified the birds we saw.

Send to: Ella Sorensen
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