

RARE SPECIES REPORT

086-01-1990

PORC - received 11/14/90

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| SPECIES: <u>LITTLE BLUE HERON</u> | NUMBER SEEN: <u>1</u> |
| SIGHTING DATE: <u>JULY 27, 1990</u> | SIGHTING TIME: <u>7:07 PM - 8:05 PM</u> |

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| LOCATION: <u>STATE GAME LANDS #169 UPPER MIFFLIN TWP</u> | COUNTY & STATE: <u>CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA</u> DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN: <u>4 MILES WEST OF NEWVILLE 10 MILES BY ROAD</u> DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE: <u>RT 641 5 MILES WEST OF NEWVILLE, TURN RT ONTO OAKVILLE RD, RT ONTO MOUNTAIN RD, RT ONTO GAMELANDS ROAD, RT TO END OF BRIDGEWATER RD</u> |
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HABITAT: WOODED POND SITTING ALONG CONDOQUINET CREEK
AREA SURROUNDING IS WOODED & FARMLAND

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| SIGHTING CONDITIONS: | LIGHTING: <u>ADEQUATE, LATE DAY WITH CLOUD COVER</u> DISTANCE: <u>60 TO 80 YARDS</u> EQUIP. USED: <u>10X50 TASCOS BINOCs, 15-60 X 60 ZOOM SPOTTING SCOPE (BUSHNELL)</u> LENGTH OF SIGHTING: <u>1 HOUR</u> |
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| DESCRIPTION: | VOICE: <u>NOT HEARD</u> SIZE: <u>SIZE OF SMALLER EGRETS, WAS OBSERVED IN COMPANY OF SEVERAL GREAT EGRETS AND IMMATURE BLACK CROWN NIGHTHERONS</u> PLUMAGE: <u>WHITE</u> <u>BILL WAS LONG - BLUEISH GRAY, PALE AT BASE AND DARK AT TIP</u> ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): <u>LEGS - YELLOW GREEN - UNIFORMLY COLORED LEG, FEET & TOES, NO VARIATION</u> BEHAVIOR: <u>BIRD WAS OBSERVED FEEDING FROM LOW BRANCHES AND THEN FLEW A FEW YARDS UP TO A TREE APPARENTLY TO ROOST FOR THE NIGHT.</u> |
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FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: VERY FAMILIAR WITH GREAT EGRETS, SNOWY EGRETS AND CATTLE EGRETS. HAVE OBSERVED LITTLE BLUES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS (5-10) ALONG THE NEW JERSEY SHORE INCLUDING IMMATURES

COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: BILL WAS LONG AND POINTED AND BLUEISH GRAY UNLIKE CATTLE EGRET. SNOWY EGRETS HAVE ENTIRE BILLS EXCEPT FOR LORES WHICH ARE YELLOW. ALSO SNOWY EGRET IMMATURES HAVE YELLOWISH COLOR ONLY ON BACK OF LEGS

HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? NO IF SO, BY WHO?

Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who? NO

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space):
THIS BIRD WAS SEEN IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO SEVERAL GREAT EGRETS, AND 2 IMMATURE BLACK CROWN NIGHTHERONS. THE GREAT EGRETS WERE QUITE NOTICEABLY LARGER WITH MUCH LONGER LEGS. OVER →

SIGHTING & REPORT BY: DON HENISE

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NEWVILLE, PA 17241

SIGNATURE Donald E Henise DATE: 7-27-90

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THE IMMATURE NIGHT HERONS WERE JUST SLIGHTLY SHORTER THAN THE LITTLE BLUE HERON BUT HAD A STOCKIER BUILD.

THE REMOTE POSSIBILITY OF REDDISH EGRET WHITE MORPH CAN BE RULED OUT DO TO SIZE (REDDISH EGRET BEING A LARGER BIRD), BILL COLOR (PINKISH-FLESH ^{WITH DARK TIP} IN ADULT, UNIFORM GRAY IN IMMATURE REDDISH) AND LEG COLOR (DARK GRAY IN REDDISH EGRET). I HAVE OBSERVED REDDISH EGRETS IN FLORIDA, BUT NOT THE WHITE MORPH.

THE EVEN MORE REMOTE POSSIBILITY OF LITTLE EGRET CAN BE RULED OUT WITH THE SAME ARGUMENTS POSED FOR SNOWY EGRET, ESPECIALLY THE LEG COLOR - THERE WAS NOT ANY BLACK IN THE LEGS. (SEE BIRDING, 1989, 21:284-287)

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Little Blue Heron**

Date of Sighting: **July 27, 1990**

Observer(s): **Don Henise**

Date of Submission: **1990 Cumberland**

Submitted by: **Don Henise**

| Member | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV | Class V | | |
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| | | | | | A | B | C |
| E. Kwater | | | X | | | | |
| B. Haas | | | X | | | | |
| F. Haas | | | X | | | | |
| R. Leberman | | | X | | | | |
| G. McWilliams | | | | X | | | |
| S. Santner | | | X | | | | |
| P. Schwalbe | | | X | | | | |
| TOTALS | | | 6 | 1 | | | |
| DECISION | | | X | | | | |

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

3-24-91