







July 24, 96

P. O. R. C.

Barb Dean
321 E. Meyer Ave.
New Castle, PA 16105

087-01-1996

TRICOLORED HERON (Egretta tricolor)

LOCATION: Lawrence County on Covert Road which is at South New Castle

DATE May 11, 1996 (During the North American Migration Count)

TIME OBSERVING From 3:30 to 4:00 PM and again from 4:30 to 5:00 PM.

OBSERVERS George and Barb Dean the first half hour and Bob Walczak, Jim Jones, and Rae Bethe Jones, George and Barb Dean the second half hour. On May 12, others saw the bird. Suzanne Butcher and Linda Wagner were observers on 5/12. Nancy Rodgers and Gene Wilhelm had directions to the location and I believe they saw the heron also.

HABITAT There is an open area or pond where GREEN HERON breed and WOOD DUCK also breed. The open area is surrounded by cat tails and sedges and various other wetland plants. These areas have yeilded both VIRGINIA RAIL and SORA. The brushy wetland extends for more than a mile. The TRI COLORED HERON was seen at the edge of the pond and sometimes in the cat tails and sedges.

EQUIPMENT Zeiss 10x binoculars - 25x on the Bausch & Lomb telescope and a Minolta 35mm camera with a fixed 400mm lense & 200 speed Kodachrome film. DISTANCE 300+ feet

During the NAMC, George and I were checking out the Covert Rd. wetland area and we saw a small size heron which we identified as TRICOLORED HERON. We viewed the heron from the front. It was standing at the edge of the water. It had a blue head and neck. It had a white chin and a line of white that ran down the front of the neck. Where the white line stopped there was extensive blue and then an uneven edge of deep maroon plumes that met the pure white belly. Crest feathers were white and the legs of the bird were greenish yellow. The bill was dull yellow and bluish then a very dark tip which looked black. The bird stayed for at least 20 minutes at the waters edge, in the drizzle. I tried to take a picture but my camera was reading between 1/30th and 1/60th of a second and I took a photo even though I felt it would'nt be diagnostic but would at least show the location. Green heron was nearby and VIRGINIA RAIL called the whole time. George and I decided to try to get someone from my daughters house which was only a few minutes away. We left messages with various birders who were working the NAMC and finally reached Bob Walczak who met us at the location and helped us verify the bird. The TRICOLORED HERON was in the high grasses and it was a few minutes before we were able to see it. This time we got a good look at the beautiful buffy and fluffy covering the lower back and also the white rump of the bird. The Heron was viewed for about a 1/2 hour. It had been raining for days and on 5/11 it was cold and in the 40's & 50's and windy with heavy rains with just a few periods of drizzle.

I have seen TRICOLORED HERON countless times in NC on vacation and in Venango Co.

You may throw away the three photos.

Barb Dean

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Tricolored Heron (Egretta tricolor)**

Date of Sighting: **11 May 1996 to 11 May 1996**

Location: **COVERT ROAD**

County: **LAWRENCE**

Observer(s): **Barb Dean**

Date of Submission: **1996**

Submitted by: **Barb Dean**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **YES** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella	X		X					
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS	1		6					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. Haas

Date:

2/22/97