

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-06-27 18:59:28
Observer's Name	John Ruckdeschel
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Phone	313-485-7808
Observer's Address	Street Address: 10838 Willow Heights Drive City: Las Vegas State / Province: NV Postal / Zip Code: 89135 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Emily Ruckdeschel
Species (Common Name)	Tricolored heron
Species (Scientific Name)	Egretta tricolor
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult non breeding
Observation Date and Time	06-21-2016 8:20 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	2016 June 21 John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove
County	Montgomery
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Audubob
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	at the dam on the Perkiomen River at John James Audubon Center
Habitat	Flowing river with low dam and rocks below. The shore we were on was next to a pumping station. The bird landed on the opposite shore where there was a dirt beach about 4-6 feet in depth and 15 ft long surrounded by trees.
Distance to bird	100 yds
Viewing conditions	Clear, sunny, no glare
Optical equipment used	Zeiss 10x56B T* P* binoculars and Swarovski spotting scope

Description	There were Canada geese, a few mallards and a spotted sandpiper in the rocks below the dam. A great blue heron flew in and then two smaller herons, one a green and the other the tricolor. All three were visible from the same location at the same time for size comparison. I already had my spotting scope out looking at the spotted sandpiper and the green heron and casually put the scope on the third heron. It was intermediate in size between the great blue and green, closer in size to the green. The neck was very long for the bird and initially was extended upward. The bird was a dark blue-grey and white on the belly with streaks of white extending up the chest. There were no plumes on the neck consistent with it being a non-breeding adult. It is a bird I am very familiar with from years birding in Florida and I did not realize it was reportable or I might have spent more time trying to get a photo
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Landed on beach and extended head upwards for 10 sec or so Walked a little on beach and then flew into trees along shore and out of view
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	No other bird I know of has those markings. A great blue and green heron were visible at the same time along the dam and the size was clearly intermediate. The white belly and white streaks up the chest excluded a little blue and the color excluded a reddish egret. The neck was far too long for a night heron
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes. Highly familiar with this bird
During	none
After	Sibleys 2nd edition
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