

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2017-08-01 20:13:27
Observer's Name	Evan Houston
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Phone	206-327-5352
Observer's Address	136 Ridgeview Danville PA 17821 United States
Species (Common Name)	Tricolored Heron
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult transitioning from Breeding to Nonbreeding Plumage
Observation Date and Time	08-01-2017 11:20 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S38434756
County	Montour
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Anthony Township (I think)
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Route 54 Wetlands (restricted access)
GPS coordinates of sighting	41.091021, -76.708297
Habitat	wetland
Distance to bird	about 600 feet
Viewing conditions	clear day, sunny with good light, some heat shimmer due to temps around 80
Optical equipment used	Kowa TSN 883 Angled 88mm Prominar Spotting Scope
Description	While doing a quick scan of the wetland, I noticed this bird poking its head up out of the grasses. My split second initial impression was that it looked like a small, scruffy GBHE. It flew to the far side of the marsh, where I was luckily able to relocate the bird to study it and determine its identity. An adult transitioning from breeding to nonbreeding plumage. My notes from the field: Much smaller than GBHE in flight. Red eye, blue head, white patches on side of body, yellow base of bill, gray tip of bill. Remnants of breeding plumage with white crest plume visible.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Standing in tall grasses along the edge of the wetland, looking for prey. The bird also flushed when it saw that I noticed it, and it flew about 100 feet to another part of the wetland.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

My thought process was GBHE is too big, and many plumage characteristics of LBHE do not match. Then I looked at TRHE in my Sibley app and I saw that the field marks I was seeing matched an adult TRHE transitioning from breeding to nonbreeding plumage.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

This adds to the interesting flood of Southeastern US waders showing up in PA recently. Probably forgetting some: 2 Roseate Spoonbills, 1 Wood Stork, 1 or more Purple Gallinules, another Tricolored Heron, multiple White Ibis, and I think a "Great White" Great Blue Heron. My photos are poor quality because they were digiscoped from about 600 feet away, but they show many of the characteristics mentioned in my field notes from above (the red eye was much easier to see through my scope).

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes

During

Sibley app

After

The Guide to Sibley Birds

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph



[IMG_5774.jpg](#)



[IMG_5789.jpg](#)



[IMG_5790.jpg](#)