

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
210 Welcome Ave.
Norwood, PA 19074.
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

089-01-2001

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Cattle Egret *Bulbulcus ibis*
Subspecies (if known) _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) unknown

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): immature

DATE OF OBSERVATION 10/28/01 TIME around sunset

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Hebron Township, Potter County

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Frederick Farm (Horses)

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Gary Witmer
Address 19 Avenue B
City Coudersport State PA ZIP 16915
e-mail (optional) witmers@penn.com phone (optional) (814) 274-7655

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

Miriam Witmer

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) closely grazed pasture, farm-yard along Allegany River

DISTANCE TO BIRD 50'

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) clear sky, temps. low 40's sun low @ right angles to our left, then behind us when the bird changed locations

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Bushnell 8x42, Bushnell 8x40

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed – size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): Plumage was entirely white. Bill was yellow, short and heavy for an egret. Legs were dark greenish-nearly black. Possibly looked darker in fading light. Size - Much smaller than Great Egret, approx. the size of Snowy E. neck shorter, ~~than~~ proportionately, than other egrets. This bird did not have the "dainty" appearance of a Snowy E.

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) Most of the time it was ~~at~~ standing motionless, all hunkered up because it was so chilly. At our approach, it flew from the ground to the top of a nearby trailer. From there it flew out into the pasture and resumed its motionless stance.

VOCALIZATIONS

None

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) Told from Great Egret by difference in size, shorter neck, shorter and heavier bill. (I noted these things very carefully because the dark legs were new to me in this species, when I got home to the field guides I found that that was consistent for an immature CattleE) Told from Snowy E because of the yellow beak, lack of yellow feet, short neck. Immature Little Blue Heron not really considered because of range, but differentiated anyway by length of neck, shape/color of bill, and according to field guides, L.B. never has legs as dark as this bird.

DISCUSSION – Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

It should be noted that in the few steps this bird was observed taking, and while standing, which was mostly facing us, its legs ~~were~~ and feet were clearly visible.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

CattleE. in Assateague, Va; Cuba. Snowy E in Assateague; Cuba, Great Egret in various parts of PA, including Potter County; VA; Cuba. I have also seen many photos+videos of all the above.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) yes. The only thing that caused any hesitation was the dark legs; but even so, this bird just did not have the neck+beak of any other N. Am. Egret. I knew it had to be a CattleE even before I was able to reconcile the leg issue.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation _____

After observation Peterson's Eastern Birds; Am. Bird Cons; All the Birds of N. Am., Golden Birds of N. Am.

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 2/22/02

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Mary L Watman

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Cattle Egret (Bulbulcis ibis)

Date of Sighting: 28 October 2001 to 28 October 2001

Location: HEBRON TOWNSHIP

County: POTTER

Observer(s): Gary Witmer

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Gary Witmer

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

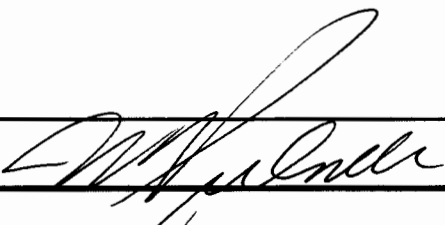
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Heathcote			X					
P. Hess			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 1/9/03