

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-06-04 16:51:18
Observer's Name	Bill Etter
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Phone	2159643613
Observer's Address	Street Address: 407 S Cigar Rd City: Northampton State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 18067 Country: United States
Species (Common Name)	Cattle Egret
Species (Scientific Name)	Bubulcus ibis
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult alternate
Observation Date and Time	05-29-2016 2:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S29971877
County	Northampton
Location (City, Borough, Township)	East Allen
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Seiple's Farm Pond
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.7040582,-75.4240501
Habitat	Small pond on farmland surrounded by unkept grassy area
Distance to bird	~100 yd
Viewing conditions	sunny, hot, very slight heat shimmer
Optical equipment used	Celestron spotting scope
Description	A small but somewhat chunky white heron with a slight wisp of orange in the crown. Legs and bill were yellow/orange.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	The Cattle Egret was slowly strutting around through unmowed grass along the pond, stalking and striking at insects constantly.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Light orange streak across crown indicate Cattle Egret and eliminate any other possible species I'm aware of. Dull orange legs eliminate Great Egret, Snowy Egret and immature Little Blue Heron, as well as Little Egret, a long-shot to begin with. Further, structure of bird, especially the shorter, thick bill eliminate above species. Lurchy feeding style in long grass is highly indicative of Cattle Egret as well.

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

Photos were taken holding an iPhone 6 to the spotting scope. Not crystal clear, but clear enough in my estimation. The orange in the crown was very faint and not visible in the photos, unfortunately. Mike Schall was able to find the bird at a different pond a few hours later and obtained a photo that shows the orange streak, though still not too well. See his eBird list at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S29991874> .

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

Yes

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph



[Cattle Egret 1.jpg](#)



[Cattle Egret 2.jpg](#)



[Cattle Egret 3.jpg](#)



[Cattle Egret 4.jpg](#)