

<b>Submission Date</b>	2015-01-18 13:42:38
<b>Observer's Name</b>	August Mirabella
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<b>Phone</b>	2153680594
<b>Observer's Address</b>	Street Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane City: North Wales State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 19454 Country: United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Judy Mirabella
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Tricolored Heron
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Egretta tricolor
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	Immature
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	08-29-1976 2:30 PM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="https://ebird.org/admin/reviewSub.htm?subID=S14950478">https://ebird.org/admin/reviewSub.htm?subID=S14950478</a>
<b>County</b>	Bucks
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	New Britain Twp.
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Peace Valley Park
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	40.3414265, -75.1734352
<b>Habitat</b>	Where Neshaminy Creek feeds into the lake. At the time fairly open low vegetation and shallow water. The lake was low and mud flats were significant.
<b>Distance to bird</b>	~ 50-100 feet
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	At least partially clear based on my notes.
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	7x50 binoculars & Swift Scope
<b>Description</b>	The actual time seen was sometime after 2:30 PM since my notes indicate that was the start time, and we were there for

5 hrs. My notes say it was clearing and breezy after a passing strong cold front. It was certainly an unusual day for the site, with 17 white egrets/herons present, four Black-crowned Night-Herons, and Green Herons (no count). My notes also said there were 11 white egrets/herons at nearby Pine Run Dam, only a short distance away where we had stopped earlier. The eight species of shorebirds present were also unusual but the mud flats were apparently extensive. This was before the lake was maintained by water pumped from the Delaware R. for human water supply. These low water conditions apparently were the attraction.

We were sitting at the bridge on Chapman Rd. when the bird flew by and landed. We were very familiar with the species and immediately knew what it was. The bright white belly through the under-tail coverts continuing through the axillaries and under-wing coverts were seen in flight. The clean break with the dark chest, neck and head plus the dark primaries and secondaries from underneath are in my notes. Also, noted were the whitish blotchy strip up the central part of the front of the long neck and dark upper parts. My notes say immature, so I assume the dark areas had reddish tones sprinkled in, but I didn't specifically note that.

Those are the only notes I have, and I remember the bird but no more details.

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

I don't remember any other details other than we saw it fly and land. Don't remember how long we watched it.

**Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)**

No other expected heron/egret has this undersides pattern.

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

Surprisingly, George Franchois, a skilled observer, entered i eBird a sighting on 8/27/76 at Green Lane Reservoir. Although it is possible with the apparent unusual numbers of herons/egrets present that it could have been a different bird, it is likely in my opinion that being as rare as it is here, it probably was the same bird moving east back to the coast.

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

Yes, we knew the species and all other herons/egrets well. The unique under-parts pattern was clearly seen.

**During**

None??

**After**

None??

**Click to edit**

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