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Lat/long \_\_\_\_\_ Reporter \_\_\_\_\_ Sci Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ Record type \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. 83-017  
Date/time \_\_\_\_\_ Disposition \_\_\_\_\_ Cx Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name LEAST BITTERN  
Scientific Name IXOBRYCHUS EXILIS  
Sight date 14 MAY 83 time 10:20<sup>AM</sup> duration 2 seconds  
Distance from bird 45 feet.  
Sight conditions Overcast, flat LIGHT.  
Optical equip. \_\_\_\_\_  
Photo. equip. no chance to use either.  
Number of this species seen 1  
Notes made at time of sighting  Date this report was prepared.  
Notes made later from memory   
Photo available  Photo enclosed  18 May 83

Weather at time of this observation.  
Windy with LIGHT SHOWERS.  
Prior weather & number of days since change  
Cold + unsettled. - 3 days  
Locality  
STEWART LAKE Waterfall Refuge,  
Jensen, Utah.

Male  Adult  Age unk.  Basic Plumage  Light Phase   
Female  Subadult  ♀ or Imm  Breeding  Dark Phase   
Sex Unk.  Juv/Imm  \_\_\_\_\_ year bird  Eclipse  Molting

Description of bird. Size, Colors, all field marks OBSERVED - Unique features of this bird, if any.

) Bird somewhat larger than Virginia rail. In THE two seconds I observed this bird, TWO FIELD marks (aside from long legs & bittern bill) stood out! 1 - Buffy fore wing patch and 2 - Dark back with creamy colored throat, breast & stomach. The bird flew across a 15 foot opening in the reeds, landed on a cattail and lunched into the reeds. The observation was brief but diagnostic.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

I DID NOT HAVE TIME TO REALLY DIGEST THE BIRD AND DID NOT ESPECIALLY NOTICE THE BLACK CROWN PATCH.

Variations from expected field marks.

None - JUST utter surprise AT seeing THE bird AT ALL. I WAS SITTING ON THE HOOD OF MY CAR SORTING OUT SWALLOWS.

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

THE SIZE & MARKINGS NEGATE ANY OTHER HERON OR AM. BITTERN. THE LONG BILL ELIMINATES SORA AND THE SIZE DIFFERENCE & DARK BACK/LIGHT FRONT COLOR PATTERN ELIMINATES VIRGINIA RAIL.

Behavior of this bird. Include names of other birds with this one and any interaction.

THIS BIRD FLEW ACROSS A SMALL CHANNEL IN THE MARSH, PERCHED BRIEFLY AND DISAPPEARED INTO THE REEDS.

Habitat this location and near by or adjacent habitat if significant.

Large marsh with accompanying vegetation.

Describe birds song or sounds.

Silent.

Names of other observers. A/C + phone

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I HAVE SEEN ALL THE BITTERNS & HERONS, I HAVE SEEN CLAPPER, VIRGINIA & SORA'S. THIS IS MY FIRST LEAST BITTERN.

Print name & mailing address below

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