

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Species: Great Egret Date: September 7, 1984  
 Number: 1 Age: adult plumage Sex:  
 Locality (exact address or other specific information to describe location, such as x miles north of x intersection): Escalante River Canyon at mouth of Twentyfive Mile Gulch  
 Latilong: 21  
 County: Garfield City: Elevation: 4440'  
 Time: 2:30 PM Length of time observed: momentary - from helicopter  
 Habitat: Escalante River - on sandbar with no riparian willow in canyon  
 Distance to bird: 500 feet Light conditions: bright sunlight - no glare  
 Optical equipment: none - 2 photos for observation Kodachrome 64, 50mm lens 1/500 sec. 35mm  
 Observer: Larry Royer  
 Other observers who independently identified this bird: individual was noted by pilot (Alan Carter) and passengers (Tom Hansen)

DESCRIPTION. Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern color, and any unique features.

The bird flew from a rock outcropping on barren sandbar at immediate edge of Escalante River (when disturbed by sound of helicopter). Flight was slow, direct, with measured wingbeats. Plumage was all white. The bird was large and of Great Blue heron size and shape. Shape and configuration was not chunky as in cattle egret.

Voice and/or call notes:

Behavior:

Describe what specific feature(s) you saw and/or heard that caused you to come to your conclusions:

*large size  
slow, steady flight/wingbeat*

What similar species might it have been, and how were these eliminated?

*Snowy egret - smaller bird, flight would be more wavy, flutters  
Cattle egret - body shape - much more chunky, smaller  
Cattle blue - smaller bird*

What experience have you had with this and similar species?

*Great egret - Iowa observations since childhood  
Snowy Egret - observations Cullen Marsh - Coche Valley  
all species - Florida - many trips, observations*  
Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Significance of record in the area and/or the state:

Additional material (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available):

*2 Kodachrome 64 transparencies (not attached)*

Signature:

*Lawrence Royer*

Address:

*235 South 900 West  
Cedar City, Utah 84720*

Date prepared:

*Sept-21, 1984*