

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Latilong _____ Record type _____ Serial No. 84013
 Habitat _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Least Bittern
 Scientific Name Ixobrychus exilis
 Obs. date May 30, 1984 time(s) 6:50 A.M.
 Duration of obs. 4-5 seconds
 Distance from bird 25-35 yards
 Light conditions Good; plenty of daylight, but no
 Optical equip. 7x50 binoculars direct sun.
 Photo equip. none
 Notes made at time of sighting _____ Date report prepared _____
 Notes made later from memory X May 30, 1984

Weather at time of this observation.
 Temperature about 65-70 degrees.
 Clear; no cloud cover and no wind.

Prior weather and number of days since change
 Many days of cloudless skies, temperatures
 in the 70's and no winds.

Locality
 South of Provo, Utah and north of
 Springville in a marsh created by
 high waters and an eastern extension
 of the Provo Bay portion of Utah Lake.

Enter number of birds in each category.	GENDER(S)	AGES(S)	PLUMAGE(S)	PHOTO(S)
Total number observed.	Males <u>1</u>	Adults <u>1</u>	Breeding <u>1</u> Transition _____	Available _____
<u>1</u>	Females _____	Juv/Imms _____	Eclipse _____ Dark phase _____	Enclosed _____
	♀ or Imms _____	2/3 yr birds _____	Winter _____ Light ph. _____	none
	Unknowns _____	Unknowns _____	Other _____	

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

Size- About 11-12 inches long.

Color- Head and back were very dark; neck and flanks tan, whitish below. We saw the bird in flight--when it banked to land in the reeds the lighter, almost buffy colored wing patches stood out in contrast to the rest of the wing which was much darker. I had seen the bird the night before for about 3 seconds, but was not able to see the contrasting wings which all the field guides said was diagnostic. This morning I was able to see them very clearly to my satisfaction.

The legs were lighter colored--about the same color as the bill.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

Not sure I saw the two light stripes across the back because I was concentrating on the wings during the short flight.

Variations from expected field marks.

None

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

Too small for a Green-backed Heron and didn't have the bright yellow legs.
Too small for the American bittern which also lacks the wing patches.
Rails also lack the wing patches.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

Only saw one bird each time in flight. It's head was drawn in heronlike with legs extended behind and it had a strong, direct flight. It had been in flight both times I saw it coming from my left to right (east to west) and it landed in a clump of hardstem bullrush and cattails about 4-5 seconds after I watched it in flight.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Freshwater marsh consisting of hardstem bullrush (Scirpus) and cattail (Typha). There was some open water interspersed with fairly thick clumps of aquatic vegetation. This is a fairly young marsh with vegetation not exceeding 4-6 feet.

Describe bird's song or sounds.

None heard.

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

Merrill Webb
1063 East 400 North
Orem, Utah 84057 224-6113

Signature

Merrill Webb

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

Lots of experience with rails and other marsh birds--this is the first time for this species.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Harold Clayson

Print Name

Signature

David Fischer

Print Name

Signature

Steve Russell

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature