

Long Point Bird Observatory

P.O. BOX 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, Canada N0E 1M0 Tel: (519) 586-3531 x162 E-mail:
lpbo@birdscanada.org - www.birdscanada.org/longpoint



RARITY REPORT



In order that any sight record or banding of a rare species can be accepted for the historical record, it must be properly documented. LPBO cooperators are therefore asked to complete a form in every case where a rarity is being claimed. Guidance as to which species are considered rare in the Long Point area may be obtained from the LPBO Program C Coordinator and in *A Birding Guide to Long Point Area*. Each observer should prepare his/her description independently and preferably before consulting any field guides or other literature. PLEASE PRINT.

Species claimed: Little Blue Heron

No. of birds: 1

Age: Adult

Sex: Unknown

Date(s): July 4, 2012

Place: Cranberry Creek. West side of highway 416 (southbound) – UTM 18T 447244 4995673

Time(s) of Observation: 1435

Who first saw the bird(s): N/A

Who first identified it: N/A

Other observers (names and addresses): N/A

Any who disagree: N/A

Your previous experience with the species: Observed the species innumerable times in the southern states and three previous times in Ontario.

Your previous experience with any closely similar species: Observed all the small herons innumerable times in the southern states and most in Ontario at some point.

(a) Formerly: N/A

(b) Same day: N/A

Species present for comparison: None

Which were beside it for comparison: None

Distance from observer(s): 50m

How measured: Estimate

Optical aids used: None

Weather conditions (at time of observation): Mix of sun and cloud.

Visibility: Hazy at about 5km.

Cloud Cover: 50%

Lighting: bright

Wind direction and speed: N/A

Other relevant conditions: N/A

(eg. rain, snow cover, etc.)

For "Waterbird " records only

Lake conditions: N/A

Wave height: N/A

Height of observer above lake: N/A

Was observer's position sheltered:

Weather system preceding the date of observation (if known):

None that I am aware of aside from Tropical Storm Debbie in the southern states the week previous.

Attach weather map clipping from local or national newspaper if relevant.

Associated movements of other species:

Was the bird trapped: N/A

Band # if banded: N/A

Was it photographed: No

If yes, by whom (name and address):

Specimen or parts preserved: N/A

Present location: N/A

Circumstances:

I was birding/driving home from Ottawa along the southbound 416. I was lucky that traffic was congested due to construction and volume for a stretch of about 5km north of the Rideau River. I was driving past a small open water area of Cranberry Creek/marsh between 20 and 30km/h when I noticed a small (crow size with long legs and neck), all dark blue heron, with a dark/blue bill and greenish legs hunting on the south side of the open water. I slowed substantially and observed the bird for about 20-30 seconds until traffic forced me to continue and pulling over was not safely possible. I got off at the next exit (Dilworth Rd.) and circled back hoping that with some prior knowledge I'd be able to find a safe place to pull over and get a picture, but the bird was no longer present between about 1450 and 1510.

Description:

Give separate description for (a) in the field (b) in the hand. Include full measurements and wing formula with hand descriptions.

Small (crow size with long legs and neck), all dark blue heron, with a dark/blue bill and greenish legs. The bird was in a stalking position overlooking the water for the entire time I observed it.

(Continue on extra sheet if required)

Did you refer to any guides/other literature: no

(a) at the time: no

(b) afterwards: no

Finally, is this record 100% certain? yes

Signed: Stu Mackenzie

E-mail Address: smackenzie@birdscanada.org

Date: July 6, 2012

Mailing Address: PO Box 160, Port Rowan. N0E1M0