The Little Blue Heron in Saskatchewar

By Dr. STUART HOUSTON, Yorkton

Joyce Gunn reported four Little Blue Herons at Good Spirit Lake, northwest of Yorkton, on May 24, 1956. This constituted the first sight record of this species for Saskatchewan. (BLUE JAY, XIV, Sept. 1956, p. 90).

On Sept. 9, 1956, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McDonald and Betty McDonald of Yorkton reported a white bird resembling an egret, wading in the marsh just east of Number 9 Highway at Crescent Lake, about 16 miles south of Yorkton. They noted it again on Sept. 14, when it was also seen by Cliff Shaw of Yorkton and B. W. Cartwright, chief Naturalist of Ducks Unlimited. On Sept. 15, it was seen by Mary Houston. On Sept 16. Stuart and Mary Houston watched it for a total of five hours, and good views were obtained with 7x and 10x binoculars at 20 yards and with a 40x telescope at greater distances. Several photographs were taken with a borrowed telephoto lens.

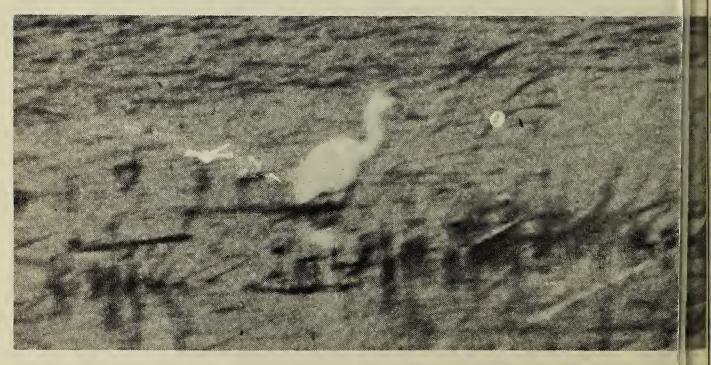
The bird was definitely smaller than the bitterns which would land beside it. The feet and legs were a greyish green. There was no yellow on the toes. The bill was bluish grey and black at the tip. The plumage was uniformly white, with no bluish cr buff. This could only be the juvenile plumage of the Little Blue Heron. Dr. R. W. Nero of the Saskatchewan

Museum of Natural History phoned, and he came up and observ ed the bird but did not collect it li was then absent until Sept. 19, w n it was again reported by the 1:-Donalds. On Sept. 20 it was as n seen by the Houstons. It was st seen on Sept. 21 by Mary Hous a

Pough, in the AUDUBON BLD GUIDE, states: "In inland freewater marshes of the South the L le Blue is generally the commonst heron. . . . After the breeding seam it wanders north in greater num rs than any other southern heron exist the egret. Most individuals ence 1tered in the North are the piewhite young of the year; as a re lt they are often mistaken for ep ts or snowy egrets."

These exotic southern birds at a welcome addition to the Saskatewan bird list. Saskatchewan 20 watchers should be on the lool ut for the American Egret, Snowy E et and Little Blue Heron. If the trid continues, who knows but that it Green Heron and Cattle Egret my yet be seen within our borders?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The President has p ed on to us an observation from Mr. ter McLellan, Arcola, dated Aug. 10, 1956. Ir. McLellan's note reads, "A pair cf Little ue Herons (*Florida caerulea*) are nesting are but I have not found the nest. I am ild there is a group of 20 or more abou 20 miles north of Kisbey. They have not re-viously been seen here."



Kodachrome telephoto by Dr. S. Hc on IMMATURE LITTLE BLUE HERON