

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Great Blue Heron (Great White) Ardea Herodias occidentalis

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One individual

3. Parish: Cameron

Specific Locality: Rutherford Beach Rd. On the beach near the rock barriers

4. Date(s) when observed: Friday, May 5, 2023

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

About 8-8:30 AM

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

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|----------------------------------------|
| Reporting observer: Patsy & Tom Inglet |
| City: San Antonio |
| State: Texas |

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Jane Henry

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): None

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Direct Morning Sunlight; good viewing conditions

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 8x42 binoculars

11. Distance to bird(s): Less than 25 yds

12. Duration of observation: About 5 minutes

13. Habitat: Beach

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

The bird was standing on the beach and allowed us a close approach. It seemed to be resting.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently*,

stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids):

We saw the bird at a distance, and, recognizing it as a white morph of the Great Blue Heron, approached more closely to take a photo to document it. Its size indicated a large heron, but its coloration was NOT that of a GBHE. It was too big for a Great Egret, and the legs were all wrong (pale rather than black). The beak was not the bright gold of a GREG.

16. Voice: The bird did not call.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Great Blue Heron/Great Egret: To distinguish this bird as a Great White Heron, we noticed the size of a GBHE without the characteristic coloring, the long neck, heavy yellow bill, and the pale legs.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Single photograph from a Canon Powershot SX70HS. I cropped the photo slightly to upload it to eBird.

19. Previous experience with this species:

Seen in Florida several times and once on the coast of Texas near Texas City.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

eBird and Merlin; Kaufman field guide to the Birds of North America

a. at time of observation: Kaufman Field Guide

b. after observation: All About Birds from Cornell Lab of O; Birds of the World

21. This description is written from:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | notes made during the observation. | Are notes attached? | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | notes made after the observation. | At what date? | 5-5-2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | memory | | YES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | study of images | | YES |

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

YES. The size of the bird and its beak were definitely NOT Great Egret. We had seen this bird before, and the field marks “rang bells” in our head. We confirmed with our field guide and eBird and Merlin.

23. Date: May 5, 2025

Time: 8:30 am

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page? YES

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____ Yes _____

