

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☐

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Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | Nycticorax violaceus  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): From 11 April to 18 April 1982Number of birds seen: one Sex: unknown Plumage: adultLocality: McMurray Natural Area, Larimer County Open  
Space on Cache La Poudre River Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_Nearest town: in Ft. Collins between Shields and College  
Avenues, north of river County: LarimerTime(s) observed: many observations: from 06:30 to 19:30 hoursDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): from 2 to 60 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

See attached sheet

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

See attached sheet

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

From twilight to bright and sunny to shaded to overcast

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x binocular and 1250mm Lumetar lensDistance, and how measured: as close as 100 feet by estimateIf photographed, type of equipment and film: b&w, slides, and color prints availableWho else photographed the bird? many people

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Usually found perched in a cottonwood. Occasionally seen stalking prey in a shallow creek. It would alternately stand motionless, carefully walk a few steps, and probe with bill in no particular order.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

The bird was slightly larger than the more common Black-crowned Night-Heron but much smaller than a Great Blue Heron. The legs were long and unfeathered. The neck appeared short when the bird perched, long and stout (not slender like a Great Blue's) when feeding or alarmed. Black-crowns and Great Blues nearby for comparison.

MORE



Description (continued):

Colors: body overall gray-brown; wings darker gray, less brown; breast unmarked; upper belly faintly streaked; lower belly nearly white; head predominantly black with white streak below and behind eye; chin pale yellow; crown bright yellow toward beak fading to pale yellow toward nape; occipital plumes present; beak dark blue-gray; iris yellow to yellow-orange depending on light.

See enclosed photo.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

A hoarse croak when startled.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

The area is cottonwood-dominated riparian bordered by fields used for horse grazing

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Black-crowned Night-Herons have shorter legs, shorter neck, no white face patch, solid black crown, dark back.

Green Heron much smaller, more pettily built, differently colored.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have observed thousands of night-herons of both species under field conditions. While a naturalist at Everglades NP I participated in both ground and aerial heron census work.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: Peterson and Robbins field guides

b) after observation: vol I of Palmer's HANDBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

I am familiar enough with the species I recognized the bird without books. This report was written from reports made during XXX, after observation XXX from memory  
Date and time report was written: 1 May 1982

Reporting observer: Kevin J. Cook

Signature: Kevin J. Cook

Address: 728 Eastdale Drive, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205

## YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

Ft. Collins, April 1982

## Observers who reported observations

Jim and Nancy Sedgwick	11 April	07:00-07:30
Kevin Cook and Jim Sedgwick	12 "	14:00-14:20
Kevin Cook and Steve Wisniewski	12 "	17:05-17:55
(joined by Bruce and Kathy Bosley at 17:30)		
Steve Den	14 "	06:30-?
Steve Den	14 "	16:30-?
Dennis Thiers	15 "	18:15-18:30
Steve Den	16 "	16:30-?
Steve Vaughan	17 "	?
Jim Sedgwick and 20 people on an Audubon bird walk	18 "	07:30-?
Steve Den	18 "	15:00-?

## ADDRESSES

Kevin Cook, 728 Eastdale Dr., Ft. Collins, CO, 80524

Bruce Bosley, Ft. Collins, CO

Steve Den, c/o Putnam Elementary School, Ft. Collins, CO 80521

Jim Sedgwick, 516 Mathews, Ft. Collins, CO, 80524

Dennis Thiers, c/o Hewlett-Packard, Ft. Collins, CO

Steve Vaughan, 509 Hanna, Ft. Collins, CO

Steve Wisniewski, 1712 Aspen, Ft. Collins, CO