

5-87-5

## APPENDIX II

A

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: Yellow-crowned Night Heron Nycticorax violaceus  
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 31 MAY 1986 Time Bird Seen: Approx. 130pm to 200pmLocality: Ponds below Two Buttes Reservoir damTWO BUTTES, BACA County, Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Bausch + Lomb Zephyr 7x35 BINOCs / 20x SPOTTING SCOPEIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: -Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unk Plumage: AdultLight conditions: CloudyDistance from bird, and how measured: 1<sup>st</sup> obs. - 5' 2<sup>nd</sup> obs. - 20' 3<sup>rd</sup> obs. - 100'-150'  
(estimated) eye sight eye sight spotting scope - 20x

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Bird flushed out of MARSH REEDS/grass when I first saw it. It then flew to a tree where I flushed it a second time. After the 2nd flush I could not find the bird again. I returned to vehicle across from the pond and scanned the trees w/ BINOCULARS. I spotted BIRD in tree + observed w/ spotting scope for 2-3 minutes.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:  
Ponds in Canyon below Reservoir, surrounded by MARSH REEDS/grass, CATTAILS, cottonwood trees

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

N/A

APPENDIX 11 Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

1<sup>st</sup> observation - bird flushed at 5' distance. I saw light colored crown and bright yellow legs, overall gray body. Immediate reaction was a heron like bird - possibly yellow-crowned

2<sup>nd</sup> observation - again saw light colored crown, yellow legs trailing behind in flight, also saw light cheek patch on face. Was certain it was yellow-crowned

3<sup>rd</sup> observation - from my vehicle w/ a spotting scope - bird in tree. Saw clearly the yellow crown, red eye, and what turned out to be white facial stripe behind the eye. Body was overall gray, wings were mottled w/ lighter color. Absolutely no question in my mind that it was y-c w-h. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

NO CALLS GIVEN

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Black-crowned Night Heron - absence of black crown  
Gray vs white body

Prior experience with this and similar species:

yellow-crowned is new species for me; have seen several black-crowns in the past 5 years

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ after X observation;  
from memory X.

Name (print) : BETH DILLON

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Signature: Beth Dillon

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
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Denver, CO 80205