

5-91-13

## APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

A

Species: 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): 28 July 1991 Time Bird Seen: 7:45 am to 8:00 amLocality: Fountain Creek Reg. ParkFountain, Colo.

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binocs; Kowa 20-60 ScopeIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —Number of birds seen: one Sex: — Plumage: breedingLight conditions: Good; early morning sun.Distance from bird, and how measured: ~100 yds., estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Perched quietly in willows; partly hidden at pond edge. Sometimes dozing.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Foothills pond along riparian woodland bordering Fountain Cr

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

Joe Roller; Toni Breville's

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.

Short-necked, compact, overall grayish night-heron with a heavy all black bill. About 20" long. Yellowish-white forehead; black head with white cheek. Body and neck even dark gray; with back feathers, long, elegant and pointed, margined narrowly w/ off-white and overhanging folded wing. Legs yellowish.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Black-crowned Night Heron has black back, black crown, white belly.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen both night-herons in breeding plumage many times, including yellow-cr. in south Florida in Feb 91.

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

Name (print) :

MARK JANOS

Mailing address:

10 Sedem Ct. Pueblo, Colo. 81001

Signature:

Mark Janos

Return Form To:

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