

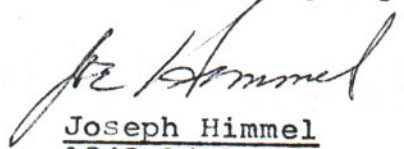
5-92-13

A

Yellow-crowned Night Heron  
(Nycticorax Violaceus)

A juvenile Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen at 4:00 P.M. on August 18, 1992, at the inlet channel of Lower Latham Reservoir (Weld County Road #48) east of La Salle, Colorado. The bird was observed at a distance of approximately twenty yards with both binoculars and 30x scope.

The Yellow-crowned was feeding with two other juvenile Black-crowned Night Herons, as well as thirteen Snowy Egrets and seven White-faced Ibis. The Yellow-crowned has a completely different profile than the Black-crowned. The Black-crowned seems dumpy, hunched over, with virtually no neck, whereas the Yellow-crowned stands more erect, exposing a long(er) slender neck. Instead of the brownish color of the Black-crowned, the Yellow-crowned is a darker, slaty color. There is a marked difference in the bill shape. The Yellow-crowned has a much thicker bill, which appears "keeled" on both the upper and lower mandible, giving it a thick appearance at the base. The bill of the Yellow-crowned is also solidly darker than the slightly bi-colored bill of the juvenile Black-crowned. The most obvious difference is in the shape of the white spotting on the upperparts. The spots on the Black-crowned seem quite large, oval, "tear-shaped", whereas the white spots on the Yellow-crowned are very fine, small. When the birds took flight, I could observe the long, foot extension (out beyond the tail) of the Yellow-crowned species. The bird was not relocated on the following day.



Joseph Himmel  
1848 14 Avenue  
Greeley, CO. 80631  
(303) 352-0288