

Species: Yellow-Crowned Night Heron
(Vernacular name)Nycticorax violaceus
(Scientific name)

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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.

Date (s): 5-16-82 2 PM 5-19-83 6-7 PM
5-18-82 2 PM-2:15 5-20-83 8 AM Time Bird Seen: _____ to _____Locality: Tamarach Ranch
Crack, Logan County, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: Leitz 7742If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Nikon Camera with 400mm
Spinaflex lensNumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: AdultLight conditions: SunlightDistance from bird, and how measured: 100-300 Feet - estimated
30 to 40 Feet over head on first day - estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Would be wading or standing on bank would flush & land
in tree some distance off & return to water or ground

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

A slough with cattails & reeds at edge of Riparian
woodlands on S. side of Platte River

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

Inez PratherJohn Prather

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.

A gray-blue bird with long legs. Immediately identified at first sight by, bright yellow top of head + white patch outlined in black on side of head behind eye.

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

None noted

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Black-Crowned Night Heron. has black top of head + all white side of head, + white not blue grey front.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Black Crowned Night + Herons seen many times

yellow Crowned Night Herons seen in Indiana, Kansas + Florida.

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

NAME (print): Bill Prather

Mailing address: Box 486 Fleming, Colo 80728

Signature: Bill Prather

Return to:

Hugh E. Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206