

# Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

rec'd 12/19/03

***Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!***

CBRC FILE #: 2003-92

**RESULTS:**

Species: (Common Name) Yellow-crowned Night Heron

(Scientific Name) Nyctanassa violacea

Date(s) of occurrence: Sept. 18, 2003 and Sept 19, 2003

Number of birds seen: One

Sex: Unk

Plumage: Juvenile

Exact location: Lake Pueblo State Park, Rock Canyon area, along Arkansas R.

County: Pueblo

Nearest town: Pueblo

Elevation: 4800'

Length of observation: 45 mins

Time(s) of observation: Late morning. 1030 to 1200.

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: None

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Brandon Percival

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Daylight, light overcast

Optical equipment used: 8 X 32 Binoculars

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 25 ft at closest point

Was (were) bird(s) photographed? Yes. On Sept. 19, 2003

If so, are you submitting photos? Yes

Who took the photograph(s)? Myself

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: General Habitat: Lowland Riparian. Specific Habitat: Riverbank of the Arkansas River.

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: When first seen it was perched in a bush on the riverbank. It was fairly tame and easily approached to photograph. When flushed, it only flew a short distance.

DESCRIPTION - Comparable in size to a Black-crowned Night Heron, about 24" long. Long, pale yellow legs. Bill was dark gray. Overall body color was grayish brown. Neck, breast and underparts were streaked. Back and wings had light colored spots. In flight the feet extended well beyond the tail.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: None

SIMILAR SPECIES - Black-crowned Night Heron. This heron was distinguished from the Black-crowned Night Heron by the blunt pointed bill that was all dark in color. The feathers on the wing coverts had thin, light colored edges and the tips had small light spots. The legs were longer


What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I've seen several Yellow-crowned Night Herons, mostly in adult plumage. I've seen hundreds of Black-crowned Night Herons in all plumages.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): I had the National Geographic Society Birds of North America with me when I was observing the heron. Later I consulted Sibley's Guide to Birds.

This report was made from (check one) ☐ notes made during observation ☐ notes made after observation ☒ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: Nov. 18, 2003

Reporting observer: J. Rich Miller

Signature: 

Reporting observer's address: 2700 Troy Ave., Apt. C323

E-mail: millerjrich@aol.com

City: Pueblo

State: CO

Zip: 81001

**Send report to:**  
**Colorado Bird Records Committee**  
**Tony Leukering**  
**PO Box 660**  
**Brighton, CO 80601**



Yellow crowned Night Heron  
(stud)

Sept. 19, 2003  
Lake Pueblo State Park  
Along Arkansas R.  
bushes dam

