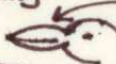


BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

MYERS

1. Species Yellow-crowned night heron 2. Number 1
3. Location just south of Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge
4. Date: Aug. 14, 1980 5. Time Bird Seen: 11:05 A.M. to 11:20 A.M.
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
1. Med. size heron with long neck and seemingly too big head for the neck - head was always held high and neck ~~not~~ ^{not} hunched as often in black-crowns
 2. light brown breast with heavy darker streaks - ~~on~~ back was grayish-brown and had whitish specks - neck + head brownish + finer streaked
 3. eye seemed to stand out on head and seemed yellowish at times to reddish depending on light - (maybe my ~~imagination~~ eyes playing tricks?)
 4. legs + feet were yellowish-green - legs were very long much more so than black-crowns - see note on back
 5. Bill was stout and about as long as head (grayish)  crude but something like this
- The main thing that stopped me was how gangly the bird appeared - long legs - long skinny neck + big head and posture not fitting black crown. We were observing from small narrow bridge and had to move when a pickup came. By the time I got the car off the road and returned to bridge bird was gone.
7. Description of voice, if heard: —
8. Description of behavior: Bird was walking, wading + hunting along small stream.
9. Habitat - general: I did not see it fly. wooded area south of Union Slough - not marshy
- specific: small shallow stream with some clumps of taller grass along edges
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
not an American Bittern as had no black whisker mark on cheek and bill was too short + wide - imm. black-crown night herons are close but this bird was too long legged + necked and just didn't act right
11. Distance (how measured)? 60-70 yds. approx 12. Optical equipment: B.T.L. 7:35's
- area was posted so I didn't step it off ^{maybe closer} + Bushnell 20X scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Sun was high and sky mostly clear - bird moved in + out of shadows
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have never seen yellow crowns but have seen many adult + imm. black crowns and this bird was definitely different.
15. Other observers: my wife Betsy - I also reported bird to refuge ranger and he said they have also seen both adult + young yellow-crowns in this same area.
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: my wife did not independently identify the bird
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Robbins, Petersons, Pough-etc.-etc. I used many sources and all backed my choice
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? The first description was noted as soon as I got home
- Signature: Robert K. Myers. Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.
- Date: this draft Nov. 17, 1980 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa, 50701

Please note:

In Godfrey's Birds of Canada he states that in yellow-crowns the tarsus is longer than the combined length of middle toe and nail (about equal in black-crowns). As this bird moved I could see the feet and toes and tarsi from time to time. The tarsus was certainly much longer than the length of any of the toes

1. Description of voice, if heard: —
2. Description of behavior: Bird was roosting, feeding + hunting along small stream.
3. Habitat - general: wooded area south of main slough - not marshy
4. Habitat - specific: small shallow stream with some clumps of tall grass along edges
5. Date and time of day: 11:00 AM
6. Location: south of main slough
7. Distance from observer: 50-75 yds
8. Optical equipment: Bushnell 50X scope
9. Other observers: my wife Betsy
10. Similarity appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8: Explorer - but as American Bittern as had a black webber mark on neck and bill as in shot + was -
11. Previous experience with this species and similarity appearing species: I have never seen yellow-crowns but have seen many white-throats, black-crowns and this bird was definitely different.
12. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? The first description was noted as soon as I got home
13. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description? Robbins, Peterson, Park-ot-ot - I used many sources and all backed my claim
14. Other observers who independently identified this bird: my wife did not
15. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
16. Signature: Robert X Meyer
17. Address: 1324 Cypress Ave
18. City, State: Wichita, Kansas, 67201
19. Date: 11/17/80