

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (imm) How many? 1
Location? Hawkeye Wildf Ref., Coralville Res., Johnson Co., 0.5 mi sw Hwy 218
Type of Habitat? Reservoir floodplain, shallow water, mudflat w/o vegetation
When? date(s): Sunday, 11 August 1991 time: 11:30 am to 11:35 am
Who? your name and address: David L. Dankert 5600 Plainview Dr. NW C.R., IA 52405
Others with you: Jeffrey B. Dankert
Others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Observing shorebirds, we saw a brown heron standing on a log in shallow water. Viewing the bird's right side, its neck was thicker and shorter than a Great Blue Heron's; it stood motionless with an erect posture. We immediately noted the blood-red eye, brown back with white spots, and well-streaked head, neck and breast. Its bill was dark; its shape was thick and stout; the bill appeared heavy. The bird was approximately 24 in. tall. We noted further the scattered small light spots on the darker-brown back. We observed the bird for approximately three minutes. It then flew west-northwest along shoreline, about 12 ft. high, and landed approximately 300 yds from us. We were not able to note the position of the foot relative to the tail during the bird's flight. No call was heard.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Black-crowned Night-Heron (imm) has larger light spots on back and its bill is less stout.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Partly to mostly sunny; distance was estimated; optical equipment used was two pair binoculars, 7 X 35, and two scopes, 60 mm zoom 15X-60X

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Adult Black-crowned Night-Herons in North Dakota (JBD)

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Eastern Birds (Peterson), Birds of N.A., (Golden), Master Guide to Birding, (Audubon), and personal comm. with James L. Fuller.

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? _____
1 hour- 11Aug91 30Nov91

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).