

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Y-crowned Night heron 2. Number: 1
3. Location Oxbow on Hawkeye Wildlife Area, near Iowa City
4. Date: 13 May 77 5. Time Bird seen: 7:30 PM to 8 PM
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):  
Medium sized heron (size of black-crown) underparts unstreaked grey; upper parts grey but with a slight streaky effect - feathers long + slender. head white (sl. yellowish cast) with a black stripe from chin to nape + another from bill, through eye, to nape. stripes run together on nape. slender white plume hung down back of neck, from crown. eye orange; legs greenish-orange. Bill like black-a but deeper at base in proportion to length.
7. Description of voice, if heard:
8. Description of behavior: slow stalk through pool; was catching + eating what appeared to be tadpoles.
9. Habitat - general: marshy pool in mostly-dry oxbow surrounded by second-growth  
specific: forest; close to Iowa River.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:  
Uniform grey body, small size, head pattern rule out all other N. Am. large waders.
11. Distance (how measured)? 50 - 50' (est) 12. Optical equipment: 8x32 binoc  
25x60 scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
light 90° angle; 1/2 hr before sunset; sun behind light clouds.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: have seen this sp. in MD, VA, FLA; have also seen all other sp. of large waders (herons, cranes, ibis) in N Am, (except flamingo)
15. Other observers:  
CS Newton, B Knowles.
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Bird also seen by N Halmi, T. Staudt, others.
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
N/A
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2h

Signature

Date:

City, State:

(over)

First seen by Judge R. and Mrs. Osmundson, 4/27; last seen 5/15. Seen by: T. Kent, T. Shives and others named