

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Black-crowned Night Heron

How Many?1 imm.

Location?Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co. (ponds below dam)

Habitat?sitting in a willow along a pond

Date?2 Nov 1986

Time?9:15-9:20 A.M.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:The bird was a medium-sized heron with brown upperparts and heavily streaked underparts. The bill was mostly dark with a yellowish base to the lower mandible. The legs appeared greenish and were fairly short. The bird was perched in a hunched position in a tree along the waters edge.

Similar species and how eliminated:Yellow-crowned Night Heron was eliminated by the yellowish bill color and the streaking, not spotting, on the underparts. American Bittern was eliminated by size, bill shape, and lack of a black whisker mark.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were excellent with the sun behind me and the sky mostly clear. Estimated viewing distance was 50-60 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen many Black-crowned Night Herons in Iowa.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?2 weeks