

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD


1. Species Yellow crowned night heron 2. Number 1

3. Location Pocahontas, Iowa

4. Date: 7-3-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.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):

Crow size body & head - long neck and legs with a short thick grayish black bill. Legs were greenish black and the feathers came down only a short way from the body.

 - eye color was orange-yellow to orange-red depending on the light - wing and back spots were in rows and triangular shape and light brown in color. Flushed three times to see legs and tail relative to the legs and feet definitive both extended beyond the tail.

7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT HEARD

8. Description of behavior: would perch in a tree, one on a roof, w/1 flushed

9. Habitat - general: Residential area of Pocahontas
specific:

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7, & 8.

Explain: Although the bill shape, eye color, and long neck support the ID. The longer or at least less feathered upper legs and leg-feet extending during flight are less subjective.

11. Distance (how measured)? 15 yards (EST) 12. Optical equipment: 7x35 and 20x spotting scope

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Clear, good, in back of me

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
See one at sunken grove in 1979

15. Other observers:
Wallace Jardine, Larry Brady

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: None

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Signature: Raymond L. Cummins Address: 204 NW # 12 St

Date: 7-31-81 City, State: Pocahontas, Iowa