





UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Species (common & scientific): Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex(es):** ?

Age(s) & Plumage(s): Juvenile

Date Seen: 9/1-9/12/2005 **Time: Approx.** Various

Where Seen (Town/County): New Britain Twp., Bucks Co.

Exact Location (Park, Road, Lake): Peace Valley Nature Center, Peace Valley Park

Observer Reporting:

Name: August Mirabella (finder)

Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454

E-mail: augustmirabella@aol.com

Telephone (optional): 215-368-0594

Other Observers (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you): None

Distance to Bird: 75 feet minimum

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): various

Optical Equipment Used: 7X42 Zeiss Bins & Leica 77APO w/20-60X Zoom

Habitat: Mostly on vegetated island edge in lake

Description (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage: The general dark gray/brown upper color with small white spots, the all black bill, long legs, slender elongated neck and overall more slender appearance were definitive.

Behavior (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing): Sitting, preening, or stalking food.

Vocalizations: None

Supporting Evidence if Any (include with report): Photo by Howard B. Eskin
670 Whittaker Way, Harleysville, PA 18944

Separation from Similar Species (How you eliminated others): The Black-crowned Night-Heron was at times adjacent to this bird and showed the contrast of mostly brown tones and large white spots, a partially pale/yellow bill, shorter legs and neck, and overall stockier build. Heavier broader breast streaks were also evident.

Discussion (Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it): This species in this plumage has been annual at Peace Valley, except last year, for the last few years. In 2003 and 2004, an adult passed through in spring but died in 2004. Wish we knew where these birds are nesting and how Peace Valley has become programmed for the young to appear each year.

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species: Have seen many times.

Are you positive of your ID? (Why or why not): I have no problem separating the Night-Herons but the direct comparison here made it very simple.

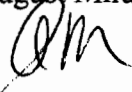
References:

During Observation: None

After Observation: Sibley's

Date of report: 12/31/05 (Didn't know this needed documentation until now)

Signature of Observer: August Mirabella

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'AM' or a similar stylized representation of the name August Mirabella.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Yellow-crowned Night Heron (Nyctanassa violacea)

Date of Sighting: 1 September 2005 to 12 September 2005

Location: PEACE VALLEY PARK

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): August Mirabella, Howard Eskin et al.

Date of Submission: 2006

Submitted by: August Mirabella, Howard Eskin

Written Description: Yes

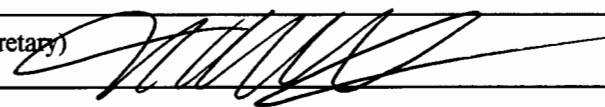
Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wittraut G Malah	X							
A. Guarente	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley					X			
E. Witmer	X							
J. Heller	X							
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS	5		1		1			
DECISION	X							

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary) 

Date: 9/5/06