

# Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

*Nyctanassa violacea*

## General Information:

-At home in coastal mangroves, inland swamps, and riparian woodlands, this short-necked, stocky heron has a gray body and a large black head boldly marked with a white cheek patch and white crown with yellowish tints on the forehead. During the breeding season, adult males and females have long white occipital plumes on the back of the head. The long yellow legs protrude well beyond the short tail in flight.

## Song:

-Short *woe* or *wok*. Its *quak* is higher and less harsh than that given by the Black-crowned Night Heron.

## Behavior:

-While mostly nocturnal, it is often active during the day. It exhibits a strong preference for crustaceans, although it eats a variety of other aquatic organisms from fish to shellfish.



## Breeding:

-Monogamous and a solitary nester or it forms small loose colonies.

## Nesting:

-Incubation of 21-25 days by both sexes. The 1 brood per year of semi-altricial young are fed by both sexes and remain in the nest for 25 days.

## Population:

-Stable.

## Conservation:

-Wetland protection is essential for this species to survive.

## Shoreline Restoration Issues:

- If you would like to create an environment friendly to the Yellow-crowned Night- Heron I would highly recommend planting relatively heavy amounts of emergent aquatic vegetation. Some of the emergent aquatic vegetation that I suggest the most are Hard-stem Bulrush, Soft-Stem Bulrush, 3-Way Sedge, Pickerelweed, Arrowhead, Wild Calla, Water Smartweed, Lily Pads, White &/or Yellow Water Buttercup, and Sago Pondweed. I would then try to concentrate on planting shrubs and taller vegetation like Wool-Grass, Japanese Millet, and Cup-Plant along the shoreline so that this big bird is not spooked by activity from your property.