

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON

Nycticorax violaceus

DESCRIPTION: Grayish-brown body feathers with darker wings; identifiable yellow crown of feathers extending beyond head; short, heavy, dark bill.

DIET: Primarily feeds on crustaceans, particularly crabs; will also eat crayfish, fish, aquatic insects, mussels, snails, leeches, frogs and small snakes.

HABITAT: Found in varied habitats, but mostly along coasts and large cypress swamps.

STATUS AND CONSERVATION: **LEAST CONCERN**
The secretive nature of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron prevents an accurate assessment of the population. They are not threatened, but are less commonly seen than the similar black-crowned night heron.

DID YOU KNOW... Yellow-crowned Night Herons get their name from their nocturnal feeding habits. During the day, they are often seen roosting under the shade of large trees. Unlike most herons, the night herons don't begin to forage for food until the sun sets. As juveniles, they are mostly brown, with a lighter spotted pattern. Juvenile Yellow-crowned Night Herons closely resemble juvenile Black-crowned Night Herons.



Breeding Range
of the Yellow-crowned
Night Heron

