

# Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*



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The Black-crowned Night Heron is a stocky bird with a thick neck, quite contrary to many of its long-limbed heron cousins. At first glance, they may seem indolent, sitting hunched on tree branches or by bodies of water, but they become more active at night.

## Description

Size and Shape- Short, stocky heron with thick necks, large flat head, large pointed bill, short legs, and broad wings.

Color Pattern- Gray with white spots on wings and belly, black back and crown, black beak, yellow legs and face, red eyes.

Behavior- Often lives in colonies and interacts with each other. Mostly nocturnal and forages at night while staying concealed in tree branches during the day.

Song- Loud and hoarse squawk.

Habitat- Live in the wetlands such as swamps, marshes, rivers, lakes, ponds, etc.

Range- South America year-round. North America during the summer and Mexico during the winter.

Diet- Many kinds of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine animals such as insects, earthworms, crayfish, mussels, clams, fish, rodents, etc.

## Bird Statistics

Scientific name- *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Family- Ardeidae (heron)

Conservation Status- Least concern

Length- 22.8-26 in (58-66 cm)

Wingspan- 45.3-46.5 in (115-118 cm)

Weight- 25.6-35.8 oz (727-1014 g)

## Egg Statistics

Color- Light blue-green

Nest- In trees or cattails by colony

Clutch size- 3-5 eggs

Number of broods- 1

Length- 2-2.2 in (5-5.6 cm)

Width- 1.4-1.5 in (3.6-3.9cm)

Incubation period- 24-26 days

Nestling period- 29-34 days

Thank you, Crystal Chang, for preparing this bird data page.