

First Chilean record of Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

On 11 November 2009 we found a first-cycle Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* roosting on a fishing boat in the harbour at Arica, Región I, in northernmost Chile. The bird was spotted by SNGH as we returned from a pelagic trip. We approached the bird closely and observed it in good light, in direct comparison with Black-crowned Night Herons *Nycticorax nycticorax*. RH took video of the bird (posted at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNViXuA3ye0>) and numerous photographs were also taken to document the record (Fig. 1).

On the Pacific coast of South America, Yellow-crowned Night Herons occur regularly south only to northernmost Peru¹, c.1,000 km north of the Chilean border. Vagrants occur south very rarely to Lima, Peru¹, but the species was not recorded in 16 years (1953–67) of field work in southern Peru². There appear to be no previous records of this species in Chile^{3–5}. The relatively dark plumage of the Arica individual (compared to birds in North and Middle America) suggests the race



Figure 1. First-cycle Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* in formative plumage (note some post-juvenile scapulars); note the relatively long legs, stout dark bill, and fine pale flecking on the wing-coverts; Arica, Región I, Chile, 11 November 2009 (Steve N. G. Howell)

calignis, which is also most likely on geographic grounds.

Acknowledgement

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References

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