

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

MORE ON SWIMMING HERONS

In *Kingbird* Vol 50 (1):17, I posed the question "Have You Ever Seen a Heron Swim??", and described an encounter with a swimming Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.

I have since heard from three readers. Norman Stotz advises that some years ago on a trip to the Everglades, he observed several Black-crowned Night-Herons engaged in swimming activity.

Bob McKinney says, "I have seen it happen a few times. I believe the most notable was perhaps some 20 years ago when a group of Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night-Herons would fly from perches in a wooded area along the Lake Ontario shore just west of Braddock Bay and land in the lake perhaps a quarter mile from shore where they would catch fish. They then would return to their perches on shore to consume their catch. This went on for over half an hour. It may have ended when the fish they were catching had dispersed."

Mike Peterson refers me to *Kingbird* Vol 45(4):315 where I find, "A young Great Blue Heron swimming in deep waters off Island 'D' 14 Jul was able to lift off the water, when forced to land on the lake again by dive-bombing Herring Gull, the heron swam in and sedately walked ashore." Mike advises that at the time they referred to this individual as the 'Great Champlainian Grebe'!

It is amazing what a welter of behavior items not found in the standard literature, is contained in the experience of active birders. Why not share them with us? That's what this "Notes and Observations" section is for.