

01040 **Black-crowned Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)



Night Heron. Adult (02-VII).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

IDENTIFICATION

58-65 cm. **Adult** with black upperparts, crown and nape; bluish wings, tail and rump; whitish underparts. **Juveniles** are brown with white spotting on upperparts and dark spots on underparts.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Usually with ornamental feathers longer and more numerous in **male** than in **female**.

AGEING

4 types of age can be recognized:
Juvenile with dark brown plumage on upperparts with pale spots; pale brown underparts with dark spots; yellowish bill; yellow iris.
2nd year similar to **adult**, but with duller black feathers; brown streaks on both sides of neck; **juvenile** outer primaries and some median secondaries retained; bill with yellowish tinge; brown-reddish iris.
3rd year spring in some birds with pattern similar to **adult** but with some **juveniles** outer primary and median secondary retained.
Adult with deep black upperparts; without streaks on neck; black bill; reddish iris.



Night Heron. Ageing. Pattern of head and iris colour: top adult; middle 2nd year; bottom juvenile.



MOULT

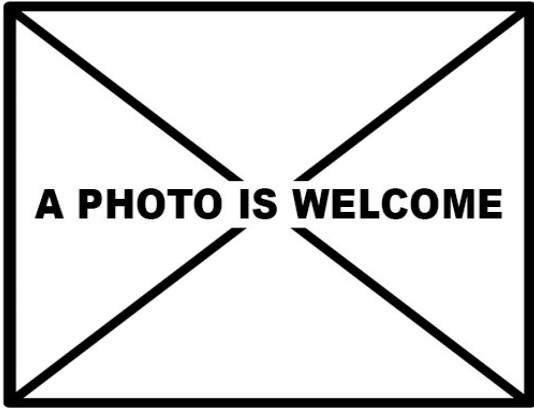
Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in November (**CAUTION:** moult usually arrested and there may be some retained outer primaries). Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers in their wintering grounds. No apparent **prebreeding** moult.

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

- Summer visitor
- Resident
- Wintering
- On passage

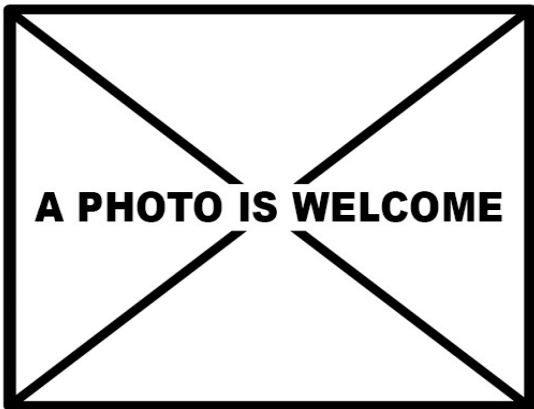
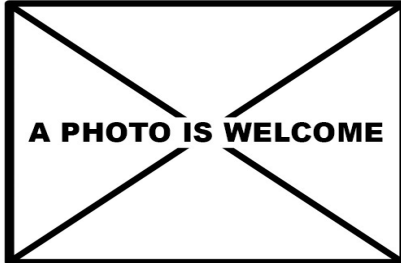
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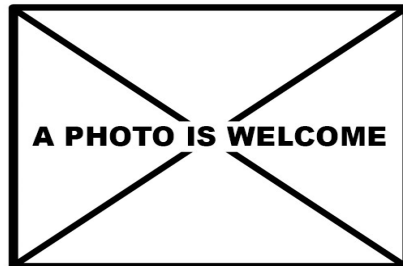
Night Heron. 3rd year ().



Night Heron. Head pattern: top adult (02-VII); bottom 3rd year ().



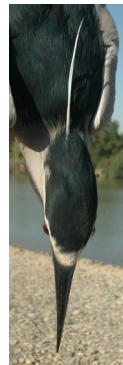
Night Heron. 2nd year ().



Night Heron. Head pattern: top 2nd year (); bottom juvenile (24-VII).

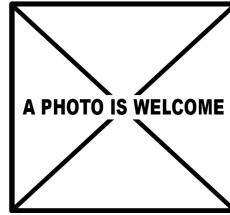


Night Heron. Juvenile (24-VII).



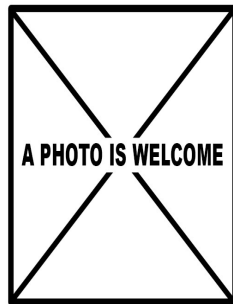
Night Heron. Crown pattern: left adult (02-VII); right 3rd year ().

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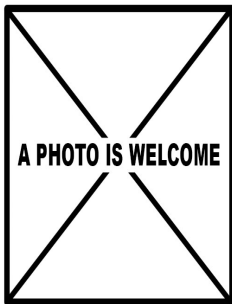


Night Heron. Breast pattern: left 2nd year (); right juvenile (24-VII).

Night Heron. Crown pattern: left 2nd year (); right juvenile (24-VII).

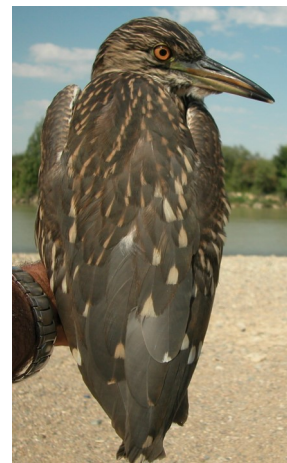
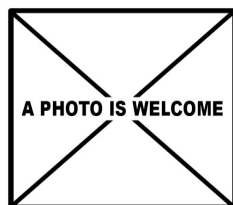


Night Heron. Nape pattern: left adult (); right 3rd year (02-VII).



Night Heron. Upperparts pattern: left adult (); right 3rd year (02-VII).

Night Heron. Nape pattern: left 2nd year (); right juvenile (24-VII).



Night Heron. Breast pattern: left adult (); right 3rd year (02-VII).

Night Heron. Upperparts pattern: left 2nd year (); right juvenile (24-VII).

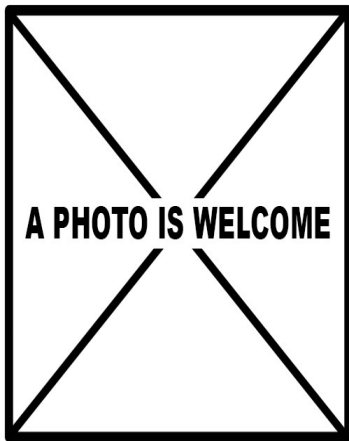
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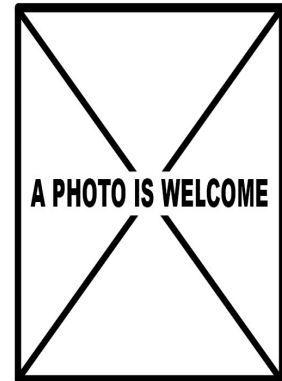
Night Heron. Adult: pattern of legs (02-VII).



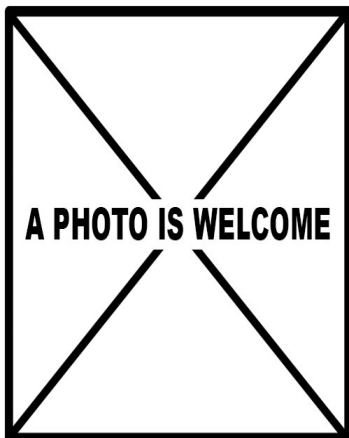
Night Heron. Juvenile: pattern of legs (24-VII).



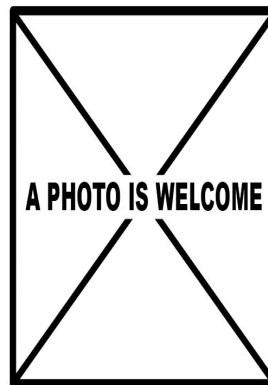
Night Heron. 2nd year: pattern of legs ().



Night Heron. Tail pattern: left adult (); right 3rd year (02-VII).



Night Heron. 3rd year: pattern of legs ().

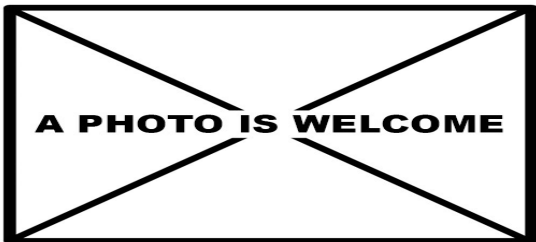


Night Heron. Tail pattern: left 2nd year (); right juvenile (24-VII).

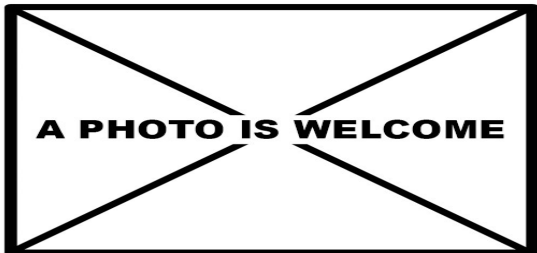
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Night Heron. Adult: pattern of wing coverts (02-VII).



Night Heron. 3rd year: pattern of wing coverts ().



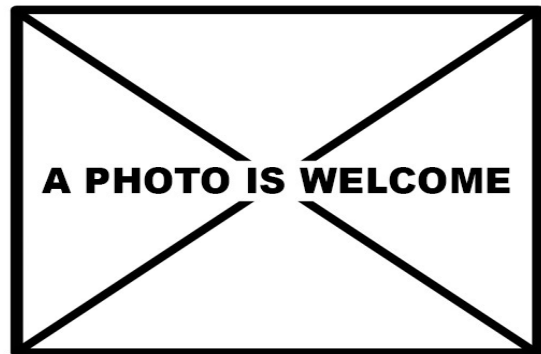
Night Heron. 2nd year: pattern of wing coverts ().



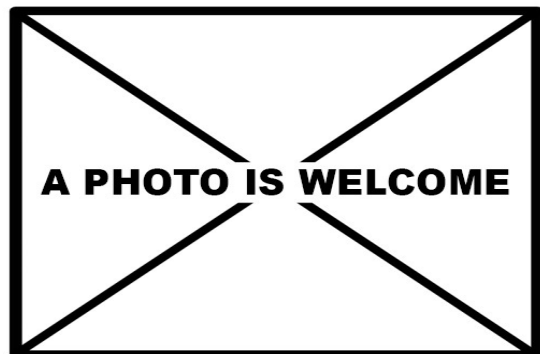
Night Heron. Juvenile: pattern of wing coverts (24-VII).



Night Heron. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (02-VII).



Night Heron. 3rd year: pattern of primary coverts ().



Night Heron. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts ().

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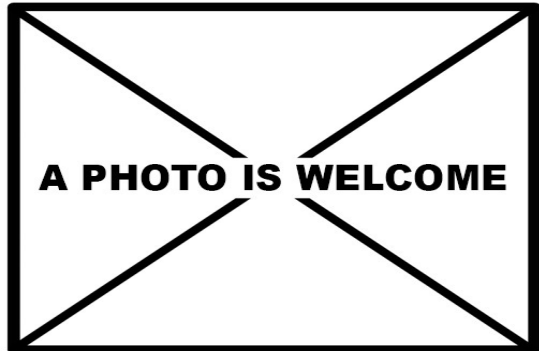
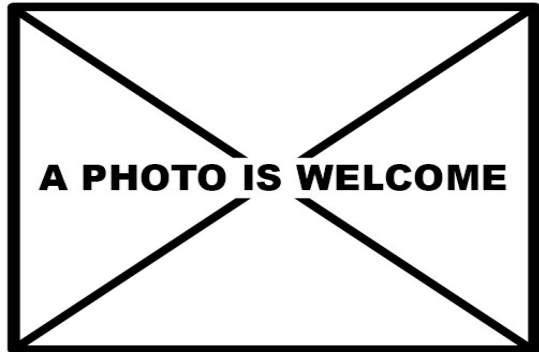
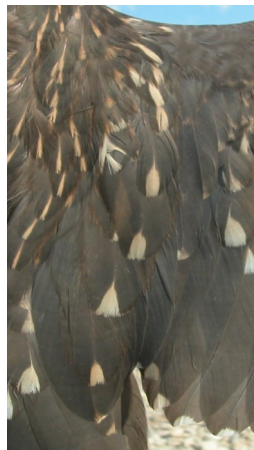
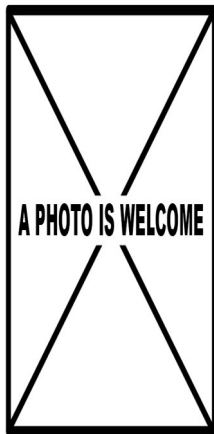


Night Heron. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (24-VII).



Night Heron. Adult: pattern of primaries (02-VII).

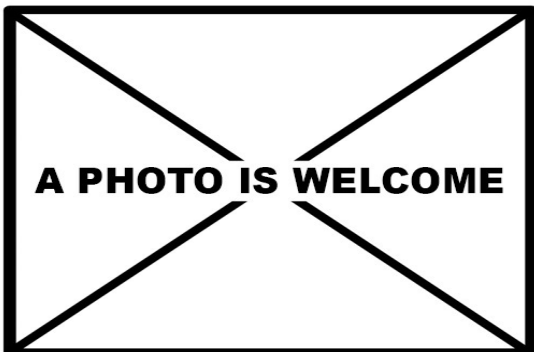
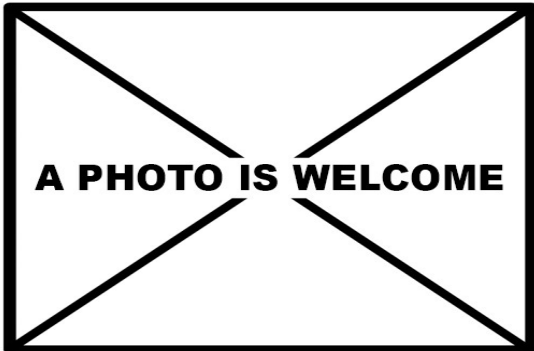
Night Heron. Pattern of tertials: left adult (02-VII); right 3rd year ().



Night Heron. Pattern of tertials: left 2nd year (); right juvenile (24-VII).

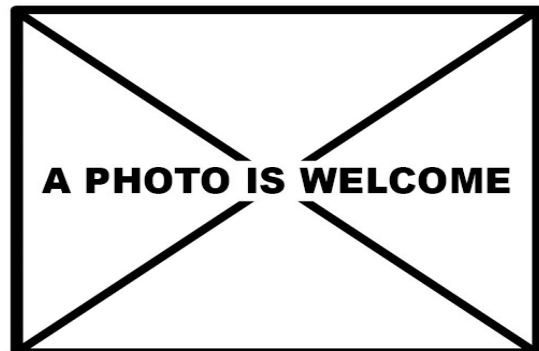
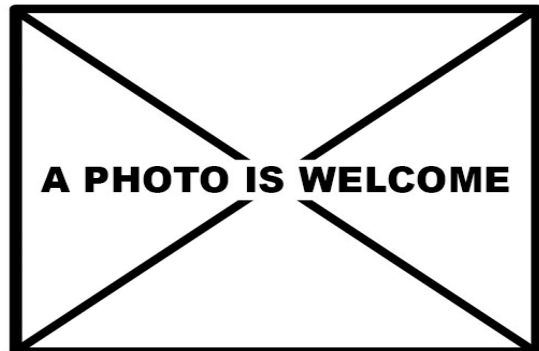
Night Heron. 3rd year: pattern of primaries ().

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Night Heron. 2nd year: pattern of primaries ().

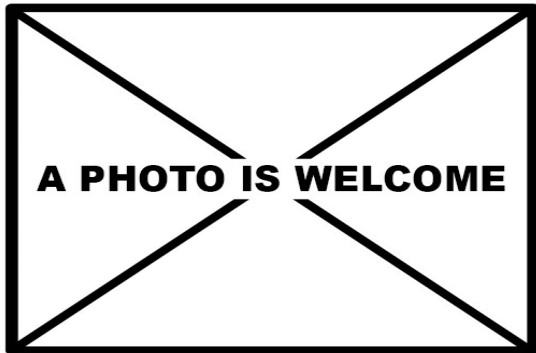
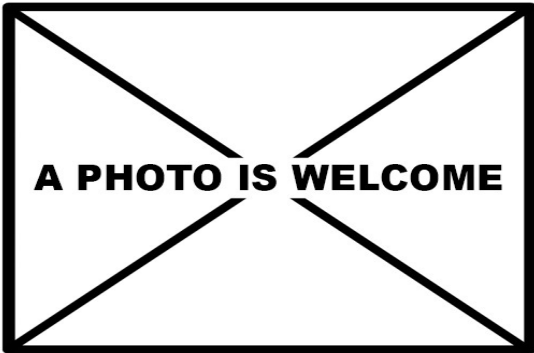
Night Heron. Adult: pattern of secondaries (02-VII).



Night Heron. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (24-VII).

Night Heron. 3rd year: pattern of secondaries ().

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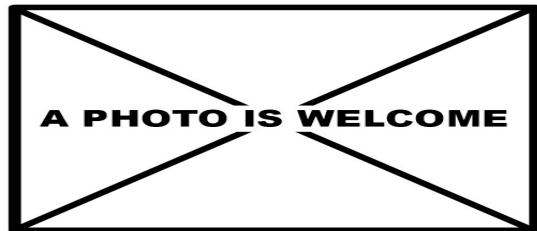
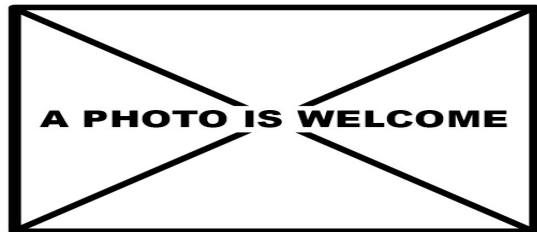
Night Heron. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries ().



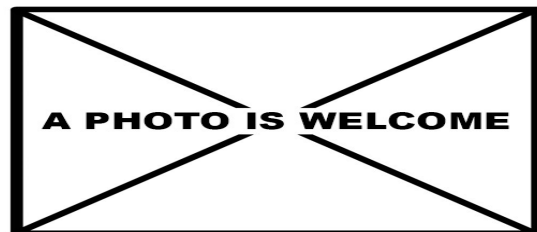
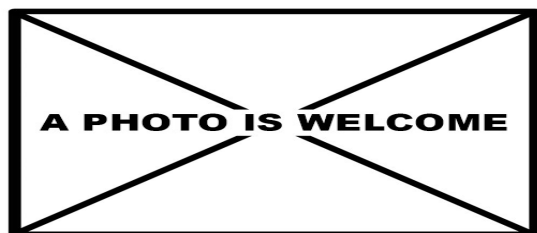
Night Heron. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (24-VII).



Night Heron. Adult: pattern of wing (02-VII).



Night Heron. 3rd year: pattern of wing ().



Night Heron. 2nd year: pattern of wing ().

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Night Heron. Juvenile: pattern of wing (24-VII).