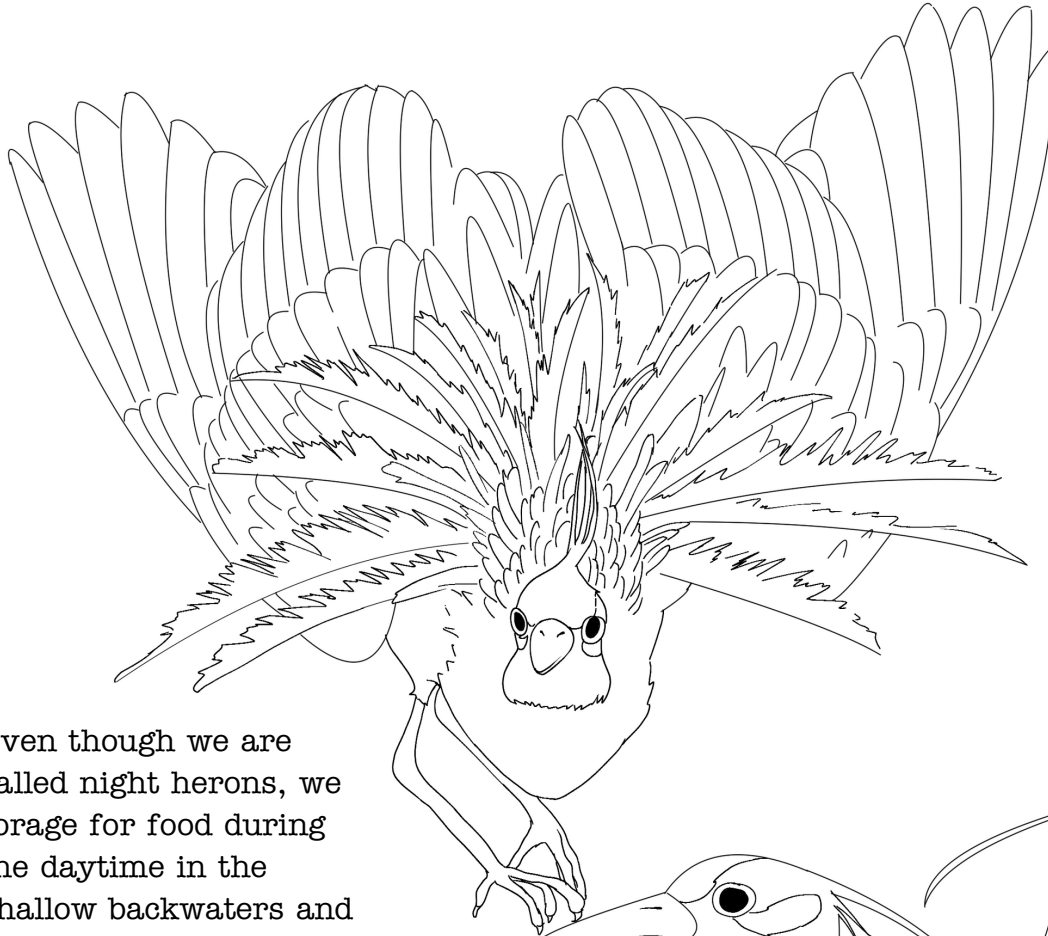


Yellow-crowned Night Heron

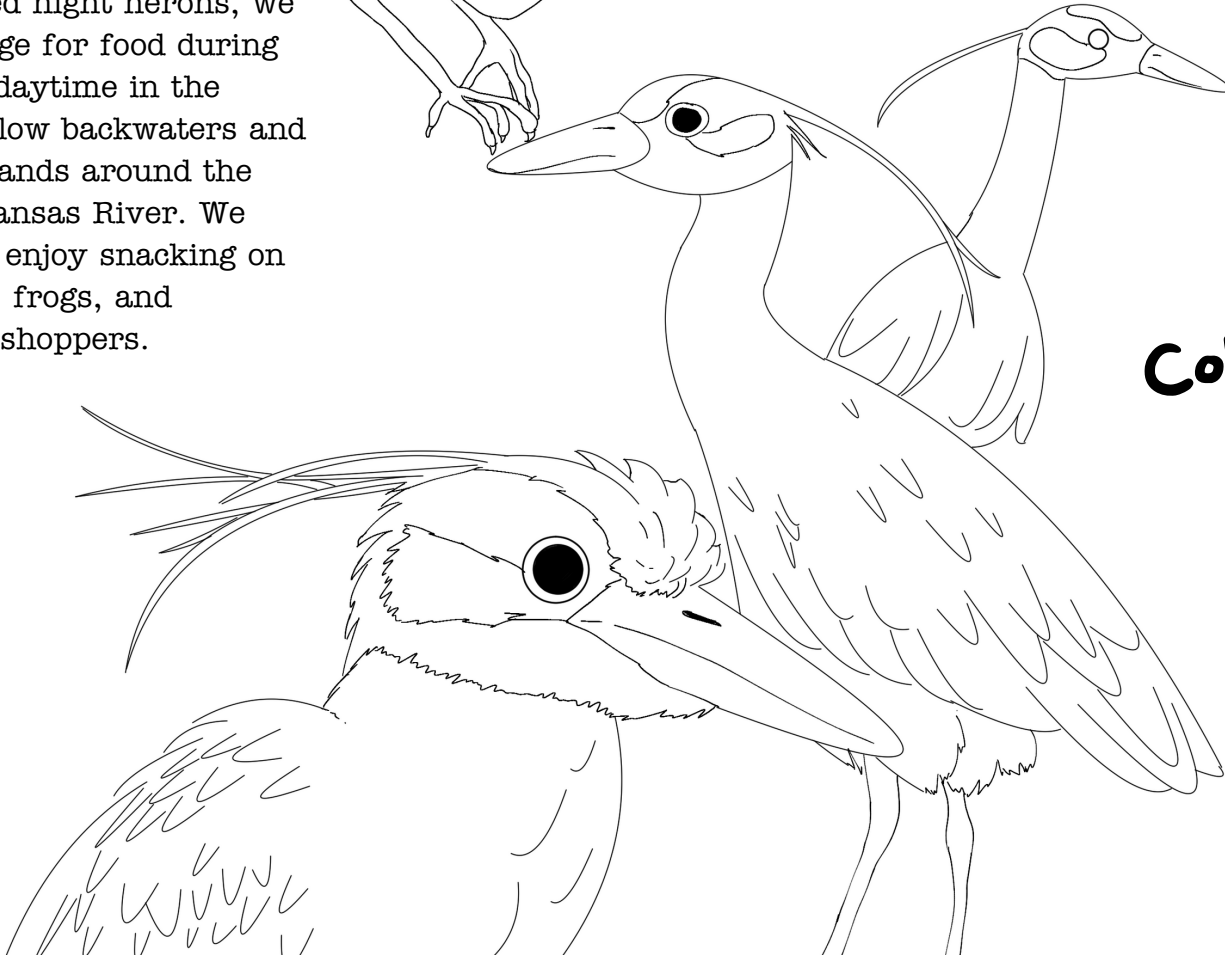
Hello! We are Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Our fancy name is *Nyctanassa violacea* and we travel to Oklahoma during the summer to nest and raise our little ones. Don't be surprised if you haven't seen us, though, because we're pretty shy!



Our eyes are red, and we have a stout black bill that's good for eating crustaceans like crabs and crayfish. We have creamy crowns, black feathers on our faces, and cheek patches that are white. Our bodies are covered in blue-gray feathers and during the summer, we have bright yellow plumes on our heads. When we are young, our feathers are brown.

Even though we are called night herons, we forage for food during the daytime in the shallow backwaters and wetlands around the Arkansas River. We also enjoy snacking on fish, frogs, and grasshoppers.

Color us!



Wetlands: Important Habitats

Wetlands are areas where the soil is really wet, or saturated. Wetlands can be found near rivers. The banks of the Arkansas River provide important habitats for the crustaceans and other critters that Yellow-crowned Night Herons need for food.

