

perched eyes partially closed. A few minutes later, a group of visitors unknowingly disturbed the heron and it flew off along the lake front.

In this case of predation and opportunistic feeding, an immature Black-crowned Night-Heron successfully captured, killed and swallowed a Norway rat with a head-body length of 7-10 inches (178-254 mm); a tail length of 4-7 inches (102-178 mm) and an estimated weight of from 7 to 10 ounces (198-283 gm). These measurements fall within the published normal range for young adults of this species (Kays and Wilson 2009). Kaufman (1996) specifically mentions rodents as a food item as well as foraging by standing still at water's edge. This is referred to as "still hunting" by Griggs (1997).

Remarkably this event and subsequent observations occurred during daylight hours in a heavily trafficked public area in full view of more than 20 people from a distance of less than 50 feet.

Author's Footnote:

The recent renovation of the South Pond in Lincoln Park and associated island stabilization holds promise for

providing a protected location for this species to breed and rear young as evidenced by the heron's occupation and nesting in this refuge during 2009 and 2010.

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