

LITTLE BLUE HERON IN SASKATCHEWAN

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On June 19, 1976, an adult Little Blue Heron was sighted by the authors at the north end of Last Mountain Lake. The bird was approximately 100 yards away, standing at the edge of a shallow pool just behind a dam at the mouth of Lanigan Creek. The dam was open and no water was being held within the reservoir, resulting in large mudflats with scattered pools of water.

The bird was first spotted at about 1830 and watched for about 10 minutes in full sunlight at a distance of 100 yards with a 45X spotting scope and 8x35 and 7x35 binoculars. The following description was recorded: "A small heron. Color of body, wings and tail, was slaty blue, with the neck and head showing a maroon tinge. The bill was blue and legs were slaty blue. The eye was dark. Body size similar to that of a nearby mallard." The bird's activities were minimal — resting, with a brief period of preening.

Several color slides were taken from 100 yards with a 210 mm telephoto lens, and then while

attempting to stalk the bird it flew before any more photos could be taken. It flew directly over Harris close as 10 yards and was last seen that day as it flew south along the shore of Last Mountain Lake.

The bird was on the same mudflat behind the dam the next day at 1830. It was again studied carefully with a 45X spotting scope from as close as 100 yards. Several more color slides were obtained. The bird was again flushed and flew southwest across the lake. Visits were made later in the month but the bird was not seen.

Previous observations of Little Blue Herons in Saskatchewan are as follows: The first was four seen by Joyce Gunn at Cross Spirit Lake on May 24, 1956. A single bird, seen by many observers, was present sporadically from September 9 to September 21, 1956, at Cross Lake, 16 miles south of Yorkton. There is also a 1956 report of a pair of birds, thought to be breeding, at Cross Lake.¹

¹HOUSTON, STUART. 1957. The Little Blue Heron in Saskatchewan. *Blue Jay* 35: 1-2.



North end, Last Mountain Lake

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