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LOUISIANA HERON IN MANITOB.

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On April 18, 1976, a Louisiana Heron was discovered by George Nykulaik in a ditch near the south end of Lake Winnipeg at Patricia Beach, Manitoba. Subsequently, the bird was seen and photographed by many obervers, and was last reported in the same area on April 25.

In the late afternoon of April 19, the heron was observed as close as 15 m away, for about 45 minutes by Rudolf Koes, Paul Goossen, Brain Knudsen, Linda Guse, and myself as it foraged in open water in the ditch. During this time, it was seen to catch two leeches (see figure 1), one of which was apparently taken inside a culvert that the bird frequently entered. It was also reported as striking a partially stranded Carp (Cyprinus carpio) on April 18, without actually being seen to eat any of the fish.

This sighting is the first verified record of a Louisiana Heron in Manitoba. Previously, there were three sightings for the province: at Nettley Lake on September 6, 1924¹, at Clandeboye Bay, Delta, on July 10, 1966², and near Ross on May 19, 1971³, but these records were not substantiated by specimen or photograph.

I thank Herbert W. R. Copland for information on the three sightings prior to 1976.



Richard W. K pt Fig. 1. Louisiana Heron with leech A 19, 1976, Patricia Beach, Manitoba

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