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## Front Cover: **BLACK CROWNED NIGHT HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

The black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), or black-capped night-heron, is a medium-sized heron found throughout a large part of the world, including parts of Europe, Asia, and North and South America. In Israel, the Black Crowned Night Heron can be found in the Hula Valley and at Magaan Michael. The birds are common passage migrants and common winter visitors. Adults have a black crown and back with the remainder of the body white or grey, red eyes, and short yellow legs. They have pale grey wings and white under parts. Immature birds (as depicted on the cover) have dull grey-brown plumage on their heads, wings, and backs, with numerous pale spots. These birds stand still at the water's edge and wait to ambush prey, mainly at night or early morning.

**Mr. Moshe Technai**, generously provided the pictures for the covers.