

ANOTHER SPECIAL FLORIDA NEIGHBOR OF OURS- THE “LITTLE BLUE HERON”[©]

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida

Here in Central Florida we are blessed with an abundance of almost never-ending daily wildlife sightings and we see some “new surprises” almost every day! Of late, we have been blessed with the sight of an almost-daily visitor around our property as we have now identified as a “Little Blue Heron”. Since then, what we have learned about this beautiful bird has been “gleaned” from various web sites and is now paraphrased here! So, let’s get started; the following is a photo of this magnificent creature as photographed by my wife Sadhana through an inside south-facing window of our home! We think you will agree that its blue color is absolutely “brilliant”!



This Little Blue Heron is indeed quite small compared to other herons. Its height is typically 22-29 inches and its wingspan just 39-41 inches. Interesting, fledgling Little Blues start out completely white, much like snowy egrets, before maturing and taking on the deep blue color.

As we have observed on countless occasions, this gem of a bird forages for its food on top of, inside of, and all around the base of landscaping bushes surrounding the perimeters of residential properties, including our own! Being carnivorous its diet consists of all of the following: fish, frogs, lizards, turtles, snakes, and crustaceans like crabs, crayfish and shrimp, aquatic insects, and spiders all of which can be found in our surrounding fresh water ponds. They also consume grasshoppers, beetles, crickets, and other grassland insects when the wet areas turn dry. Nice variety - Buon appetito!

An interesting observation I’ve made while pulling weeds and doing other gardening chores is that they are not “overly excitable” and they have often just stood still and stared at me for an extended period. At one time I attributed this behavior to these birds being “conditioned” from being fed by humans but I have since learned such tranquility is actually their natural behavior!

I hope that you will have an opportunity to see a Little Blue Heron in action around your property because I have no doubt that you will treasure the sight! They are indeed very special!

