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1405 Little John Rd.
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Piping Plovers Iowa Power & Light Settling Ponds Pottawatomie Co.

May 22, 1983 -- 2 adult piping plovers observed

24 -- 1 " " " "

June 4 -- 2 " " " "

6 Barb Wilson found a nest (#1) south of a row of green willows with at least 2 eggs.

8 I found the pair & observed one bird sitting on the nest (#1).

9 Tanya Bray & I saw one bird on the nest (#1) and 2 other birds on the north side of the willows.

11 Loren (Padelford) and I saw one pair at nest #1. Loren saw 4 eggs in it. A third bird appeared to be sitting on a nest (#2) north of the willows. We found a 4th bird dead about 50 feet west of nest #1.

16 Two birds on the south side of willows, but none sitting on nest #1. One bird on the north side, but not on nest. No nest or eggs visible (#2) from our vantage point.

19 One bird on north side of willows. Nest #1 still has 4 eggs, but appears to be abandoned.

22 One adult on nest #2, and 2 very small young walking around the adult. A second adult chased away a 3rd adult that approached the young. A 4th adult was near the water's edge on south side of willows. The eggs from #1 still there, but no birds ever went near them.

23 One adult was with 3 young. Apparently they hatched yesterday. The adult was no longer at the nest site (#2). A 2nd adult was keeping killdeer away from the area where the young were. A 3rd adult was also seen north of willows.

July 1 3 young, 3 adults

4 2 young, 9 adults

5 3 " 13 "

7 12 adults seen on south side of willows

9 7 adults, 1 young

14 1 adult, 1 young

19 1 adult

Summary: Two pairs of piping plovers nested at the IPL south settling ponds. Pair #1, found on June 8, had abandoned their four eggs in the nest south of the green willows by June 16. Pair #2, found June 11, hatched three young on June 22. One of these was observed as late as July 14.

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I observed the first migrants (7) on July 4. They peaked at 13 on July 7, and by July 14 had all gone. They were concentrated on the south side of the willows separate from the nesting pair which usually were found on the north side.