

Heronry Reconnaissance, Mississippi River, 17 April 1984 - *Note - trip a bit early for G. Egrets to be incubating*

1. Black Hawk Bottoms (RM 397.6); north of Skunk Slough and Skunk River mouth, Des Moines Co., Iowa. (Sec 7, T86N-R2W)
 - 2 GBH seen, no nests, despite 5 passes and 15 min-search.
 - recent, heavy, extensive logging and trails throughout area.
2. Otter Island (RM 408.3); center of upper end of island.
 - 45 to 50 GBH nests, birds on nests and feeding around island
 - clearcut just south, southwest of heronry.
- * Between Dasher Island (IL) and Eagle Island (IA) (RM 412)
 - double crested cormorants in flight; none seen perched.
- * Blackhawk Chute (RM 429.1); just adjacent N tip of Blackhawk Island
 - great blue herons feeding, flying.
3. Toolesboro (IL) (RM 433.8); IL island (S tip) above Iowa River mouth;
 - ~100 GBH nests, many birds on, flying, feeding
 - ~7 to 10 Great egret nests, some more flying nearby.
- * Lake Odessa, Louisa Co, IA (RM 435.8); between Yankee, Blackhawk Chutes
 - 40+ double breasted cormorants in large tree in ponded area.
 - (no nests, just perching)
- * Spring Lake (RM 448.8); Muscatine Co, IA; in wet southern third;
 - 16 Great egrets feeding; no nests
4. Blanchard Island (RM 450.8); Rock Island Co, IL, center of island, 1/3 from N tip
 - 34 BGH nests, birds on, flying, and feeding from north.
- * Andalusia Island - no heronries found.
5. Swift Slough? (RM 476.8); Rock Island Co, IL; between Prairie Slough and Enchanted Island (IA), north of Swift Slough; .15 mi N of IL 10 (and powerline?)
 - 34 GBH nests, birds on
 - 1 Great egret in air, not seen on nest, above heronry
- * Wapsipinicon Bottoms; 1.5 mi W of US67, Clinton Co, IA
 - 1 GBH feeding; no nests seen.
6. Beaver Islands (RM 514.2); Clinton Co, IA; just NE of power line, just E of lower lake at narrows to Upper Lake;
 - 115 GBH nests, birds on (and flying over entire upper island)
- * Thomson, IL (~RM 526.8); off Potter Road park;
 - no poles, no cormorants anywhere on Clinton pool
- * Middle Sabula Lake (RM 535.3); Jackson Co, IA
 - (historic Great egret heronry; not present recently or now)

7. Running Slough, (RM 538.4); Jackson Co, IA; on Kellers Island, NW of Sheer Head Slough;
-220 GBH nests, over .25 mi long heronry
8. Savannah Army Depot, (RM 554); between Crooked Slough and Mississippi River, Jo Daviess Co, IL
-No nests seen, on island or inland.
9. Crooked Slough (RM 555.3); Savannah Army Depot, Jo Daviess Co, IL.
-just north of new road and house (across from Bellevue SP, IA)
-27 GBH nests
10. Deadman's Slough (RM 569.5); north of Sinsinawa River, Jo Daviess Co, IL
-37+ GBH nests, birds on
11. Frentress Lake Slough (RM 574.8); N of Menominee River, Jo Daviess Co, IL
-nothing found, on island or inland
12. Catfish Light (RM 575.9); Jo Daviess Co, IL; center of island N of light and daymark
-90 GBH nests
13. Eagle Point (RM 582.7); Grant Co, WI; .35 mi S of bridge at fork in sloughs.
-3 or 4 GBH nests.
14. Survey flown by Nongame Biologist Dave Newhouse
with Wildlife Biologists Bill Aspelmeier
and Bill Ohde
with pilot Darryl Miller