
SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Two New Great Blue Heron Rookeries Discovered in Lake County

Dan Brouillard, conservation supervisor of the Lake County Forest Preserve District mentioned to me during the summer of 1991 that district personnel had discovered a Great Blue Heron nesting Colony near Grayslake on newly acquired district land.

On 1 February 1992 I examined the area and found 24 rather large stick platform nests and a Great Horned Owl nesting in the middle of the empty nests.

A second colony near Mill Creek on private property was discovered during the 1990 and 1991 breeding seasons. I saw six to eight nests in that colony from a road on 10 April 1992. An aerial survey might reveal more nests in that colony.

-- David B. Johnson, 504 Crown Point Drive,
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Great Egret Nests In Du Page County

While Great Egrets were observed earlier at Frontenac Marsh in southwest Du Page County, it was not until 2 June 1991 that I saw two birds carrying nest materials.

By the 8th, two birds were sitting on nests and later yet in the month a third adult was found here on a nest.

The first young bird was seen in a nest on 14 July. By the 21st, two nests contained at least one young.

Despite many visits through mid-September, no egrets were observed here after the 21st leading me to speculate that something unfortunate may have happened to these birds and their nesting attempt.

This is the first published nest record of the Great Egret for this county.

-- Alan Stokie, 174 East Kathleen Drive, Park Ridge, IL 60068

Cattle Egret Nests in Du Page County

On 10 July 1991, I observed a single, fresh juvenile Cattle Egret just out of the nest and unable to fly well at Frontenac Marsh in southwest Du Page County. I also discovered a separate family group of three young being attended by an adult.

Other observers include Wes Serafin and Sue Friscia.

We stood within 10 feet of the juvenile, which could fly awkwardly for short distances. Its plumage, including the wing tips, was pure white. The bill and legs were still quite gray.

This juvenile and the family group suggest at least two successful nests. The observation marks the first published nesting record for this species in this county and the second published nesting location found in northeastern Illinois.

-- Walter Marcisz, 12820 Wood St., Apt #1D,
Blue Island, IL 60406

Black-crowned Night Herons Nest in Du Page County

An adult carrying sticks into Frontenac Marsh was observed on 10 June, 1990 by Mike Madson. I observed an adult on a nest on the 16th.

Breeding success of this individual nest was not determined, but juveniles were present later in the season, marking the first published confirmed nesting in Du Page for this species.

At this same location at the end of June 1991, I counted five nests with brooding adults. Some juveniles fledged and used this small marsh for their feeding area.

Later in the season, Peter Kasper found another nest at nearby Fermi Lab. This breeding expansion into Du Page may represent an overflow of adults that couldn't find room for breeding at the currently heavily populated traditional northeastern Illinois nest sites.

-- Eric Walters, 720 Reba Place, Evanston, IL 60202

Meadowlark