



A young downy Anhinga perches on a tree in Johnson County. 14 July 2009. Notice that the tail rectrices are still not entirely emerged from their sheaths.

Photo by
Matt McKim-Louder.

alert posture. Within the same tree, I noticed what appeared to be a large nest. This nest was about half the size of nearby heron and egret nests and constructed of different material (i.e. large dead leaves). With a little more searching, I found another leafy nest with an adult Anhinga incubating. I found a total of three nests that I believed were currently active (adults incubating or perched nearby) and two other potentially active nests all located on the periphery of the large heron rookery.

On the morning of 14 July, 2009, I returned to the Anhinga nests with Amber Albores and Jeff Hoover. Adult Anhingas circled and landed on nearby trees while we attempted to document the number of active nests. The first three Anhinga nests we located each contained at least one small chick. A chick with emerging tail and wing feathers was observed perched on a branch about five feet from nest number three.

Chicks commonly perch on branches near the nest starting at week three (Frederick and Siegel-Causey 2000). We eventually confirmed the presence of five active Anhinga nests and located a sixth potential nest of unknown nesting status.

Editor's Note:

On 4 July 2010, at least 6 juvenile Anhingas were located together in a tree within a rookery in the same vicinity as the 2009 nesting. Based on the advanced plumage of these juveniles, nesting was initiated earlier this year. A report will follow in a future Meadowlark.

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