

June 23, 1977

Mr. Peter C. Petersen  
Editor, Iowa Bird Life  
235 McClellan Blvd.  
Davenport, Iowa 52803

Dear Mr. Petersen:

As a relatively new member of the IOU, and a wildlife biologist for the Conservation Commission, I have some rather unusual sightings to report to you, for possible inclusion in the Summer edition of Iowa Bird Life.

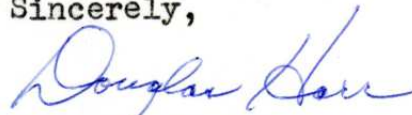
While banding Canada geese in the Iowa Lakes region, we turned up some interesting items. On West Hottes Lake, in Dickinson County, we discovered a nesting colony of Black Crowned Night Herons. We roughly approximated that about 72 birds were flushed from their nesting sights in a large stand of pure roundstem bulrush. A quick survey revealed at least 18 nests with eggs, and several unoccupied nests. Also, we observed some nesting Forester's Terns. The nests and eggs of both species were photographed, as was a nest with two Forester's Tern chicks. Later this month, Dr. James Dinsmore will be making a more thorough examination of these nests, and will probably band some of the night herons. I suspect he will forward you more complete information. We did not try to get a complete count on nests of either species, for fear of causing nest abandonment by the noise of our boats and motors. These first sightings were made on June 21.

Yesterday, June 22, while again driving geese for banding on Mud Lake, Clay County, I sighted four Canvasback hens, with broods of 2, 4, 4, and 4. Biologist Ron Howing, working from another boat on a different portion of the lake, sighted an additional brood of 6 young with a hen. This could prove to be one of the larger recent nesting efforts of Canvasbacks in this part of Iowa.

Finally, on June 10, two wildlife students from ISU, who are working for me this summer, sighted a single Double Crested Cormorant on Lily Lake, Dickinson County. The two students, Tom Taylor and Doug Padget, verified each other's identification of the bird, but could not determine if it was injured. I have no other explanation why a lone cormorant might be sighted this far south at this time of year. If this sighting is noteworthy enough for inclusion in Iowa Bird Life, please credit these two students.

Hope this information might be of some use.

Sincerely,



Douglas C. Harr  
Box 62  
Lester, Iowa 51242

cc: file