

I N T R A D E P A R T M E N T A L   C O M M U N I C A T I O N

(Please confine to one subject)

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION - DES MOINES, IOWA

TO Doug Reeves

DATE May 2, 1986

FROM Jim Hansen *Jim*

SUBJECT: GREAT BLUE HERON ROOKERY

I'm writing to tell you about a great blue heron rookery I was shown near Rathbun when I was there April 22, 1986, when I was down there checking on goose nests. It's in Appanoose County, about four miles NNW of Plano, and if you can use the legal description, I think it's T69N, R19W, Sec. 5, SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4.

The rookery is about 50 yards from the Rathbun area, on private land belonging to Dale Jones of Plano (phone 649-2945). I was told about the nests by Louis Valentine of Plano when I stopped to ask if he knew of any nesting geese in the area. His son, George Valentine, introduced me to Dale Jones and then took me back to the rookery.

I counted 12 nests, I think all of them in one large, living tree in a forested area about 100 yards from a pasture. The tree appeared to be in a nearly dry creek, not over water. The adults seemed pretty jumpy, so we just looked from about 200 yards away from a hill in the pasture. Therefore I can't tell you what kind of tree it was or much else. There did not appear to be young in the nests, although it's possible there could have been small ones. Jones showed me an eggshell (possibly crow-pecked) that he had found under the nest tree a couple of days earlier.

Jones said this was the second year they had nested there, with perhaps 10 nests last year.

Hope this will be useful to you.

JLH:eh

cc: Jack Coffey  
Harold Garner

*Jim,*

*Since we were just talking about this I came across the report in my files - thought you would be interested.*

*DR*