

Slate River Road Great Blue Heron Observation Journal

April 25, 2023

Conditions

- Arrived at 8:20 AM, Left at 12:15 PM
- 28°C, lightly snowing on and off, about 2 inches of fresh snow overnight

Total Number of Herons Observed: 12

Nest Observations

Lower Colony

- 2 herons active on nest 12, significant nest sitting (very likely incubation), nest building
- 2 herons active on new nest 11, heron sitting for long periods of time (likely incubation)
- 2 herons active on nest 10, copulation observed and photographed, long periods of sitting (likely incubation)
- Nest 9 is gone, likely blew off from wind, no activity at location
- 2 active herons on nest 8, long periods of sitting (possible incubation)
- 2 herons on new nest 7, nest building, heron sitting for significant periods of time (likely incubation)
- 2 herons very active on nest 6, periods of sitting (possible incubation), copulation observed and photographed
- 2 herons active on nest 5, new nest formed at the top part of the old, slanted nest, nest building behavior observed, copulation observed and photographed
- New unnumbered nest from 4/18 was inactive however a partial nest is still present
- 1 heron stood at location of nest 4 for almost entire time preening and sleeping
- No activity on nest 3
- No activity on nest 2
- 2 herons active on nest 1, heron sitting for long periods of time (likely incubation)

Upper Colony

- Nest 19 still present, no activity
- Nest 18 present, but damaged, no activity
- Nest 17 present, no activity
- Nest 16 present, no activity
- Nest 15 was not located
- Nest 14 was not located
- Nest 13 was not located

Middle Colony

- Nest 22 located with no activity

Behaviors Observed

- Nest 5 herons switched off (one arrived and the other left after copulating) at 9:05
- Copulation observed and photographed on nest 5, 6, and 10
- Herons observed flying north for the first time after switching off nest shifts
- Nests 12, 11, 10, and 8 are the most likely to be incubating based on behavior

Species Observed

- Canada Geese
- Red Winged Blackbird
- Northern Flicker
- Steller's Jay
- Magpie
- Raven
- American Robins
- Mountain Bluebird
- Mallard
- Gadwall
- Coyote

Other Notes

- Pat visited colony the night before (4/24) and found no herons at the colony at all for approximately 20 minutes
- All ten previously active nests were occupied when visited in the morning
- Two coyotes walked along the river right next to the road where I was able to photograph them before they wandered up the hill behind me