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Subject: Bird observations from Belle Plaine area
From: Robert Dunlap <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>
Reply-To: Robert Dunlap <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>
Date: Tue, 2 Feb 2010 15:34:27 -0600
Content-Type: text/plain

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge are looking for bird observations from the Belle Plaine sewage ponds (Scott County) and areas within 2 miles west of the city of Belle Plaine. If you have any records or observations from this area, please send to:

[\[redacted\]](#)@fws.gov

Posted on behalf of [\[redacted\]](#) Wildlife Biologist, Minnesota Valley NWR.

--

Bob Dunlap
 Naturalist, Linnaeus Arboretum
 Manager, Nobel Hall Greenhouse
 Gustavus Adolphus College
 800 West College Ave.
 Saint Peter, MN 56082
 507-933-7199

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
To [REDACTED]
02/03/2010 10:47 AM <[REDACTED]@iws.gov>
cc

Subject Belle Plaine observations

Hello [REDACTED] I saw the posting that Bob Dunlap made to the MOU for [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I've been to the Belle Plaine Sewage Ponds a number of times
and
I've also been to the trail at the southern edge of Carver County on the
west side of the river that I call the Kelly Lakes trail(just off Co.
Rd.
40). I do not keep detailed records of what I see when I go out, but I
may
be able to send you something. Can you give me an idea of what you are
looking for?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] R3/FWS/DOI
02/07/2010 09:54 AM

To [REDACTED]
cc
bcc
Subject RE: Belle Plaine observations

Thank you for your help on this. We are trying to find areas that serve as eagle communal roost sites (winter shelter and feeding), unreported eagle nests, rookeries and other areas for colonial or otherwise special birds. We will use this data for 2 primary purposes: (1.) It helps us identify specific sites that we might want to consider as we expand the Refuge upriver; (2.) It helps us in addressing development proposals that will adversely affect wildlife resources throughout the river valley.

By ourselves, we cannot get out enough to scout the valley for important ecological events. We appreciate folks like yourself sharing your knowledge with us.

[REDACTED]

Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results -- Albert Einstein

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
02/05/2010 03:03 PM

To [REDACTED]@fws.gov
cc
Subject RE: Belle Plaine observations

[REDACTED], It's a little hard to get my bearings with the overhead map. It looks like the large area that you have marked over is the sewage ponds. The main feature for me that the sewage ponds have offered in the past is a nice variety of shorebirds and waders when conditions are right. I've seen at least a dozen different species of shorebird there over the years and I know that [REDACTED] found Black-necked Stilt there one year. I've also seen large numbers of Great Egrets there during migration. The area on the other side of the river that I mentioned is good for songbirds and has also hosted Whip-poor-wills during nesting season. Kim Eckert's book indicates that there have been owls in that area as well.

When I get a chance I'll check to see if I have any more detailed notes, but this at least gives you an idea of what I've seen there.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@fws.gov [mailto:[REDACTED]@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 2:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Belle Plaine observations

Hi, [REDACTED]

Thanks for responding so quickly.

I am trying to find information on important bird use sites in an area proposed for development of a powerline across the Minnesota River valley west of Belle Plaine. In this context, "important bird use sites" means things like eagle nests, eagle feeding sites, eagle winter roost sites, colonial bird rookeries, and so on.

I have attached a map image that shows the specific location of the proposed crossing. I am interested in things you have documented within a mile of the corridor identified by the red lines. There is a scale at the top of the page to give you an idea of distance (the entire scale line is 0.2 miles).

We know some of the use of the area but we do not spend much time at this location so we are looking for help from folks like yourself that have knowledge of the area & what is going on out there.

Feel free to give me a call.

Thanks, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
(See attached file: Belle Plaine Forage and Roost.jpg)

[REDACTED]
Minnesota Valley NWR
3815 American Blvd. E.
Bloomington, MN 55425

[REDACTED]
Fax: 612-725-3279
[REDACTED]

Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results -- Albert Einstein

From: [REDACTED]
To: Margaret Rheude
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Belle Plaine observations
Date: 02/07/2010 09:44 AM

Mags:

This is all our search turned up. Not a lot but more than we had. Confirms what we suspected and adds info about seasonal use by waders/colonial birds.

Do you see any value in putting out a request to the MOU to have folks start reporting any roosting areas from this point forward?

[REDACTED]
Minnesota Valley NWR
3815 American Blvd. E.
Bloomington, MN 55425

[REDACTED]
Fax: 612-725-3279
[REDACTED]

Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results
-- Albert Einstein

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] R3/FWS/DOI on 02/07/2010 09:39 AM -----

[REDACTED]
02/05/2010 03:03 PM

To: <[REDACTED]@fws.gov>
cc

Subject: RE: Belle Plaine observations

[REDACTED] It's a little hard to get my bearings with the overhead map. It looks like the large area that you have marked over is the sewage ponds. The main feature for me that the sewage ponds have offered in the past is a nice variety of shorebirds and waders when conditions are right. I've seen at least a dozen different species of shorebird there over the years and I know that [REDACTED] found Black-necked Stilt there one year. I've also seen large numbers of Great Egrets there during migration. The area on the other side of the river that I mentioned is good for songbirds and has also hosted Whip-poor-wills during nesting season. Kim Eckert's book indicates that there have been owls in that area as well. When I get a chance I'll check to see if I have any more detailed notes, but this at least gives you an idea of what I've seen there.
Bob

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From: [REDACTED]@fws.gov [mailto:[REDACTED]@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 2:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Belle Plaine observations