

CapX Field Report

Travis Karschnik: Recorder
Andrew Krenz: Observer
10 June 2010

Purpose:
To survey the area along the Minnesota River east of Blakeley and west of Belle Plaine for colonial water bird and raptor activity and nest sites.

Methods:
Survey techniques consisted of scanning the area of the Minnesota River valley with the aid of binoculars and a spotting scope (20-60X zoom) from the vantage of County Hwy 6 (Scenic Byway Trail) and Union Trail, and scouting of the area from Blakeley to Belle Plaine via canoe. A Sony Cyber-shot (model no. DSC-H7) was used for any necessary photography. Historic nest sites, provided by the Minnesota Natural Heritage Database, were surveyed by foot using a Trimble GeoXT equipped with ArcPad 7.0 (MN County Biological Survey).

On the 28th of May 2010 the area was first scanned from County Hwy 6 on both sides of the river. The area was then surveyed from the boat landing under CR 25 near Belle Plaine to the proposed power line (44.6230N 93.8086W when viewed from Union Trail) by canoe with further exploration carried out on foot.

The next survey period occurred on the 4th of June 2010 and consisted of an assessment of the area east of Blakeley, from the County Hwy 5 bridge, to the CR 25 bridge.

Rumors of a bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest near the surveyed area required another investigation. This final survey occurred on the 8th of June 2010 and was completed on foot. It consisted of a visit to a previously known nest location at [REDACTED]

Results:
28 May, 2010: Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) colony consisting of at least 7 nests located at [REDACTED]. Also, three adult red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) were present for the duration of the morning in this area. American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) nest in a power line pole located at [REDACTED]. Juvenile bald eagle spotted soaring approximately 50m east of [REDACTED].

Weather:
Mean Temperature- 72 degrees F
Visibility- 10 miles
Wind- 5 miles per hour (ESE)

4 June, 2010: Contacted a landowner named [REDACTED] who granted access to possible nest location. Immature and adult bald eagles spotted soaring approximately 100m southwest of [REDACTED]. Adult bald eagle spotted soaring approximately 800m south of [REDACTED]. Confirmed that the historical nest sites located at

██████████ and ██████████ no longer exist. Red-tailed hawks were again seen soaring in their previous location.

Weather:

Mean Temperature- 72 degrees F

Visibility- 10 miles

Wind- 11 miles per hour (WSW)

8 June, 2010: Adult bald eagle spotted feeding on road kill on County Hwy 6 at ██████████. Walked into ██████████ property using a service road in a gravel pit located at 44.6345N 93.8452W. Confirmed bald eagle nest containing two nestlings located at ██████████.

Weather:

Mean Temperature- 65 degrees F

Visibility- 5 miles

Wind- 8 miles per hour (SE)

Resources

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(Landowner's information redacted for privacy)

"Minnesota County Biological Survey - Division of Ecological Resources: Minnesota

DNR." Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: Minnesota DNR. 2010.

Web. 11 June 2010. <<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eeco/mchs/index.html>>.