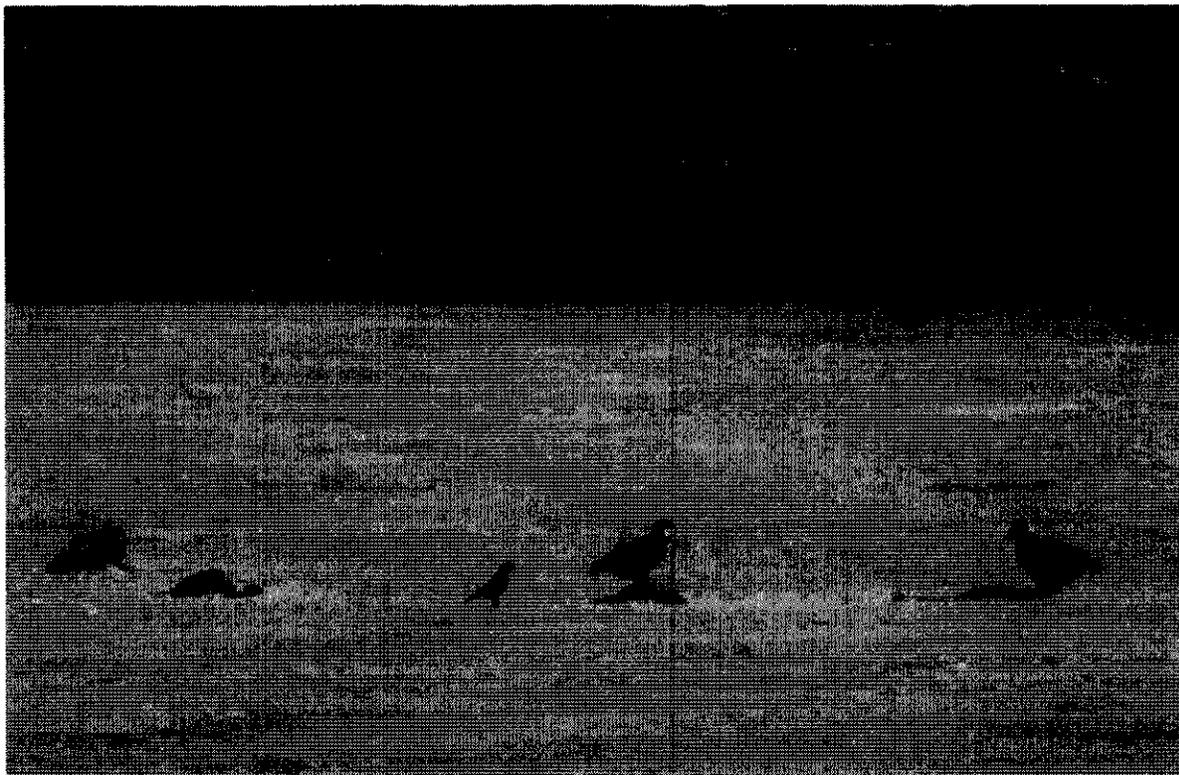


From: [REDACTED]
To: Margaret_Rheude@fws.gov
Subject: Eagle info
Date: 02/02/2010 09:13 AM



Ms. Rheude.....

[REDACTED] on way to Henderson to work at the JRBrown River Center and then at [REDACTED] after that "in the field," back around 4:00.....

1st.....BP area.....two eagle nests that we're aware of for sure between Belle Plaine and Blakeley.....folks took us into a private lake 1st of May in 2009 north of Blakeley, where there was an eagle nest and on the same oxbow, a Trumpeter Swan nest. South of Blakeley there is the Jesseenland Nest, the Feathers Nest and a reported third nest. Between Henderson and LeSueur there is the Kelm Nest and the Burns' Island Nest, less than a mile from where I'm sitting in LeSueur there is the Ward's Nest. All of these nests have been "googled" by [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] DNR office, these are the nests we've obtained the GPS information for her.....we don't have an exact GPS on two of the nests, as, due to high water in November, and now a deep snowfall, we've been unable to reach the nests.

Sewage pond/LeSueur Water Treatment plant.....picture if you will Hwy 169, crossing the Minnesota River at LeSueur traveling north.....three large ponding areas. They once contained the sewer water from LeSueur. When flooding occurred, the ponds filled with water from the MN River, thus fish came in with the water. In that the ponds were shallow, the fish "froze out" during the winter, leaving dead fish. As March thaws occurred, the migrating eagles perched on the ice eating the dead fish. This is when we counted 72 eagles at one time on the ponds and Bucks' Lake. The Hwy 169 bridge was replaced over the last two summers, all the trees near Hwy 169 were cut down, thus eliminating the "privacy" of the eagles and migrating waterfowl.....hence our theory regarding the Great Blue Heronry depletion, going from 22 occupied nests to just eight this past summer.

During a winter some 12-13 years ago, an El Nino occurred in the Pacific Ocean causing a very mild winter. The MN River was very shallow that winter as well, and Shad and other small fish were abundant near the Hwy 169, Mn River Bridge. As a result, 40+ Bald Eagles congregated in the cottonwood trees north of the bridge, easily visible by passerbys.

NOW, [REDACTED] has some wonderful eagle videos.....which will be relayed to you shortly as living proof of the activity in what we call the Bucks' Lake Recovery Zone in the area of the Ponds, Bucks' Lake and Horseshoe Lake. We observed Bald Eagles EVERY DAY this past winter from November through the present day. Due to the "fish kill" on Bucks' Lake over the past three weeks, eagles are almost always present on Bucks/Bucks' Lake area unless the passing traffic frightens them.....(More on the fish kill another time.....)

[REDACTED] meet with [REDACTED] sometime before noon, we'll decide on what info you might be interested in, and get it off to you.

Power Poles.....the CAPX2020 electrical project was set to COME THROUGH the ponds and the south end of Bucks' Lake. You may have seen the sign on the west edge of Hwy 93 next to Bucks' Lake. That was placed there courtesy of [REDACTED]. We raised a huge outcry in both LeSueur and Henderson, attend a zillion meetings, collected over 500 signatures, and that project may have been defeated as far as coming across Bucks' Lake. [REDACTED] of the Minnesota River Valley Refuge is the key person, along with his staff of biologists, in having gathered information regarding the RIVER CROSSINGS at LESUEUR and BELLE PLAINE. HE and his staff have been our allies, we have tremendous admiration for what he and his group are doing to preserve and enhanced the valley!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Tundra Swans migrate from North Dakota across Henderson and the valley beginning approximately Novembers 1st, on their way to the Mississippi and then the east coast....you're aware of all this.....they rarely "set down" on the Bucks' area. However, in springtime, "ponding" occurs in this area in many farm fields near the valley.....(usually April).....and at that time we may have numerous Tundra flocks settling down to eat in ponded cornfields both sides of the valley.....all depends on length of ponding period. Trumpeter Swans may show up any time in autumn/spring.....when they find a site they like.....corn fields especially.....they may come back to the site on a regular basis for a number of weeks.....this is quite common.....

Now.....if you have further questions, feel very free to be in touch.....you WILL be hearing from [REDACTED] and myself in the near future, and do know that [REDACTED] would be very pleased to give you a tour of the area, pointing out actual landmarks rather than "googling." We have 200 acres of valley land we steward, and are also responsible for another 200 acres.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THIS MATTER..... [REDACTED]
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