

May 17-22

2007

BTGA. water ~~high~~ levels very high in oyster pond, Mallard slough except areas around "Sora pond". in oyster pond 2 ♂ seen at water control area & East end of pond. no ♀. like ~~the~~ wise 1 ♂ near G & rd 6 where water level is very high & vegetation still sparse. 1 ♂ seen at Taylor Lake where water level also very high. a few ♂ seen near E end of Lake 1 & about 40 ♂ seen a ~~water~~ control areas between #3 & #4 Lakes. water level also very high -

about 6 wandering ♂ between "Sora pond" & I Rd culvert out # on I Rd. I walked last 4 BBS stops & only saw 2 more ♂ but didn't go beyond stop 5. water so high there no Moorhens.

in saw grass area near "G" & Tahiti Rd about 10 ♂ & 2 ♀. I believe nesting is started there. water dropping fast & much bird activity continuous sun & wind.

The busiest pond in area is now on A Rd stops 9 & 10 in that slough on S side of road. when I revisited 5/22 following BBS 5/20 there were fewer birds but 1 ♀ on a nest & 6 ♂.

at Lake 5 on 5/22 - 5 ♂, E end of oyster pond 2 ♂
at water structure between 3 & 4 Lakes 0 birds on 5/22 but 4 on 5/20 for BBS

I think they aren't really nesting yet but wandering is happening with mostly ♂ being seen. [Indian Pass Campground] - 5/22 over 20 ♂

AMay. 1 pair at Indian Pass on 2 eggs. 1 pr holding territory at Tahiti Beh. about 30 Lake behave as tho they are territorial at Tahiti Beh. No eggs seen but signs of territorial behavior. No least terns there but maybe near Rd 1 on Gulf beach.

Great Blue Heron active nest sites, adults on
all nest & very agitated but young not visible.

on I Rd; 3 single nests in 3 pine trees on S side
of Road starting about 100ft B-4 BBS stop 47
after that stop on N side of Rd starting in
about 100m. 1 pine with 2 nests, 1 pine
with 3 nests, at least 5 nests within 1/4 mile

OSPREY NEST. 031907 2 adult birds seen
at & on nest on G Rd abt 200m B-4 yet with
Jahiti Rd on S side of Rd next to a
long saw ~~tree~~ MANA. nest in live pine
tree on a lateral branch about 8' from trunk
& about 4' above a snag. 0520 birds
still with nest & would sometimes pass over
nest. 1 bird added a stick to nest. Not
brooding or feeding young but egg laying
process may have started based upon my past
experience with species. The birds were
left the immediate vicinity & hunted 1 at a time
from perch on bay about 250m from nest.

05-24-07 Indian Pass & Gulf Bch to Rd 1
Snowy Plover 8 adults & 3 1/2 grown young,
2 groups were E of the protected area
Wilson's Plover 1 adult E of " "

8 gannets just off shore adults & subadults
at Bathhouse: 8 nests of BARS & one 1/2 built
brood age is younger than usual for this
time of year.

Heronery(?) Lake 5. didn't put canoe in but
moved around area from several roads as
well as dike & based most my conclusions on
adults as well as some observed young. The overall
results are very good this year with most of
the feeding source a few ponds that are drying
up & being used continuously: Some pond in Mallard
Slough, the slough next (S) to G Rd near White jet,
& sometimes the slough S of 4 rd that begins W of
rd 4. Cogr have a few pairs nesting near E rd
& access to the heron colonies. PUGA weren't in
the main colony this yr but 2 were calling in the
lily pad area in the S end of Lake 4. Fewer Moorhens
overall than average. More Green Herons by far.

Heron nests estimates: ~~115~~

Little Blues: 10, 1 already fledged

Tri Color 11, ab- 1/2 grown

Snowy Egret 25

Great Egret 24

Anhingas have mostly
fledged & left
I saw FL's feeding
on own in Lake 3. 1 nest
in Lake 5 is still being
attended but I couldn't see age

05-19-2007 Hudsonian Godwit at St Vincent Island National
wildlife Refuge by Barbara Steiman, 2675 Seaboard Dr.,
Coolsville TN 38506

I watched a winter plumaged Hudsonian
Godwit from less than 90ft in good light with gais
10x40 Binoculars & a 25X power spotting scope on a window
mount from a good truck Blind (a refuge 4 w drive chevy
~~trucks~~ 2500) from 1230-1245p while it fed continuously
& undisturbed. I have seen this species & plumage
several times in past but not recently.

There were numerous other shorebirds, herons, & rails
feeding in the pond including a Reddish Egret right next to
it & about twice the size & a Lesser yellow legs that was about
30% smaller. The godwit had a very long, slightly upturned bill
that was 2 toned, a dark gray, slightly scaly back & light underparts,
the eye looked large for the head size & it had a lighter colored stripe over
the eye & dark gray legs. As it turned when feeding the wide, dark
stripe at the tail's end with white upper tail coverts became
apparent. Eventually it flew & circled around giving a clear
view of the dark wing linings & upper wing narrow
wing stripes.

A major weather front that started 05-18 with
very strong winds & higher than normal tides brought
numerous shorebirds into this brackish, shallow pond on the
E end of St Vincent Island next to Apalachicola Bay & close to
the Gulf of Mexico. The bird wasn't there about 1 1/2 hrs
earlier when I checked the pond & after it flew I couldn't
relocate it again.

Not seen 5-20 but 5-21 in pm & 5-22 in AM there
was a marbled godwit present also. It was larger in size.