



# TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

ELLINGTON AGRICULTURAL CENTER  
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Gary T. Myers, Executive Director  
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July 17, 1979

Mr. Kenneth M. Garner  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Room 511  
1720 West End Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Dear Ken:

In response to your letter of May 21, 1979, we have polled our Regional personnel and other records concerning known locations of colonial bird nesting species such as herons, egrets, terns and bank or cliff swallows. The following are such site descriptions, parts of which you have received directly from Regional personnel:

## Region I

1. Yellow-crowned Night Heron - (a) Jeff Bailey, Madison County Wildlife Officer, reports a colony on the South Fork of the Forked Deer River, one-half mile down stream from Roberts Station, (b) Mike Bierly of the Tennessee Ornithological Society reports a colony at Riverside Park in Memphis.

Note: Dr. Fred Alsop of ETSU reports this species was apparently never very abundant in Tennessee; they have declined and remain scattered as individuals, pairs and small family groups across the State.

2. Little Blue Heron - Tommy Stanfill, Dyer County Wildlife Officer, reports a rookery behind the Dyersburg jail.

Note: Dr. Fred Alsop reports the species much more common in West Tennessee, west of Kentucky Lake, than in Middle or East Tennessee, with flocks of several hundred to several thousands having been observed along the Mississippi River.

3. Great Blue Heron - (a) Tommy Stanfill also reports the Great Blue Heron on Moss Island Wildlife Management area but does not specify the presence of a rookery there; (b) Dr. David Pitts of U. T. Martin reported that the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge in Humphreys County (near mouth of Duck River) supported 350 active nests in a colony in 1949 but that only 33 nests remained in 1974.

## TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

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Chas. W. Thompson  
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Louis Millman

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Bruckton  
Riddleton  
Selmer  
Kingsport

4. Least Tern - (a) Tommy Stanfill reports nesting on a sandbar at Mississippi River Island No. 21 (located between River Miles 823.3 and 828.3) of Dyer County. (b) Don Miller, Region I Nongame Coordinator, reports 30 least tern nests near Barr in Lauderdale County.
5. Bank Swallow - Tommy Stanfill reports a colony of this species on the "last bank: (downstream ?) of the Island 21 shute of Dyer County.
6. Cliff Swallow - Don Miller reports a colony of swallows (not believed to be barn swallows) located under a small bridge on the blacktop highway between Saltville and Dickey Landing in Hardin County. The bridge is believed to be across either Miles Creek or a tributary.  
Note: Cliff swallows are known to nest under bridges and in culverts. Species should be verified.

#### Region II

1. Cliff Swallows - two colonies were nesting under bridges on Highway 114, north of Clifton at Ross Creek and Beech Creek.
2. Black-crowned Night Heron - George Buttery reports that Sumner County Wildlife Officer Bob Patton believes a colony of this species to be nesting on an island at the mouth of Drakes Creek on Old Hickory Lake. Bob Patton believes this could be a rookery that David Pitts reported 1.3 miles upstream from Old Hickory Dam in 1975 (the last confirmed siting of this colony). This new location of the rookery has not been confirmed yet according to George.
3. Great Blue Heron - A colony has existed in the Sinking Pond area of AEDC since at least 1965. According to Tennessee Heritage Program description of 1977, the colony contains fifteen to twenty-five nests each year.

#### Region III

1. Cliff Swallows - (a) A colony of swallows, believed to be cliffs, is located at Nickajack Cave on Nickajack Reservoir. (b) A colony of cliff swallows is located under the Highway 156 bridge in Marion County about 5 miles south of I-24 at the Halletown exit. (c) Cliff swallows are reported to be present at three locations on Rock Island Lake: Highway 111 bridge, Reno bridge and the Tosh-Reno bridge.
2. Great Blue Heron - One of three known Great Blue Heron rookeries within Tennessee is located on Chickamauga Reservoir at river mile 503, east bank. Bill Yambert advises that there are approximately 100 nests in this colony.

#### Region IV

1. Black-crowned Night Heron - Four colonies of this species have been identified within Region IV, including a recently discovered colony three-fourths mile north of Friendsville in Blount County (Longitude: 84°, 08' 25"; Latitude: 35°, 46' 20") where at least 150 adults have been using the site for two years. Other Region IV rookeries include:

- (1) The German Creek area of Cherokee Lake, Grainger County, where 394 birds were reported by Bob Nichols on May 1, 1979.
- (2) Concord area of Fort Loudon Lake, Knox County, where Nichols reports 222 birds.
- (3) Sevier County near Sevier County Hospital where Nichols reported 294 birds.

I hope this information will be useful to you in your survey of colonial nesting sites. If you need more information concerning these sites, we will do our best to provide you with any other available information.

Sincerely

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

*Bob*

Robert M. Hatcher  
Nongame-Endangered Species Coordinator

RMH:mw

cc: Bob Nichols  
Regional Nongame-Endangered  
Species Coordinators