

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea Herodias*)

WINTER: Fairly Common Resident. See Remarks section for CBC data.

SUMMER: Uncommon to Fairly Common Resident. W. Smith reported a pair that apparently nested in 1972 at East Lynn Lake, Wayne Co., WV (Hall 1983). Debbie Keener, Superintendent at Beech Fork State Park, found a pair with at least 2 young in a nest, in late summer 2001 (personal communication). Adults and 14 nests were present on a small island adjacent to Green Bottom WMA in 2004 but the outcome was not determined; adults were present at this site in March 2005 (MG, HS). Sixteen adults and 13 nests were present on 27 March 2005 along Mud River/Newman Branch, Cabell Co., WV (DW, DOW). Five nests were present on 15 March 2008 on a small island in the Ohio River at Gallipolis, Ohio. See Remarks section for high counts.

MIGRATION:

Spring: Uncommon to Fairly Common Migrant. Data from Kyger Creek Power Plant indicates arrival in February and March (Slack 1978).

Fall: Uncommon to Fairly Common Migrant. Numbers increase in August and remain relatively stable into December (Slack 1978).

REMARKS:

Summer High Counts: As many as 75 (21 August 1999) were present in late summer at Green Bottom WMA in 1999 (WA, MG, HS) and 35 were still present on 23 August 1999 (HS); 41 on 26 July 2008 at Green Bottom WMA (MG); 35 on 17 July 2004 at Green Bottom WMA (MG).

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATA

Huntington, WV (1940 - 2001): Recorded on 62% of Counts. Total Birds: 258. Range: 1 to 34.

Mason County, WV (1953 - 1976): Recorded on 61% of Counts. Total Birds: 85. Range: 1 to 16.

Ona, WV (1962 - 2001): Recorded on 85% of Counts. Total Birds: 377. Range: 1 to 47.

Huntington, WV (1940 - 2001): Number of Counts: 61. Birds/Party Hr.: <1.0. Party Hr./Bird: 11.7.

Mason County, WV (1953 - 1976): Number of Counts: 18. Birds/Party Hr.: <1.0. Party Hr./Bird: 4.2.

Ona, WV (1962 - 2001): Number of Counts: 40. Birds/Party Hr.: <1.0. Party Hr./Bird: 4.8.