
PHOTO NOTES

LATE NESTING PELICANS AND CORMORANTS

It was a beautiful warm sunny evening of 7 September 2011 when we decided to go for a quick canoe ride on Pelican Lake, approximately 9 km west of our home in Caronport, Saskatchewan. Although this was our first time on Pelican Lake this year, we had frequented it in previous years. We anticipated that we would see flocks of gulls, terns, ducks, and pelicans, getting ready for their journeys south to warmer climes. Much to our amazement, not far into our canoe ride, we came across a gravel island with a host of American white pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) and double-crested cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) still in the nesting stage. This was the first time we had ever seen a colony of nesting pelicans or cormorants, let alone so late in the season. A quick count revealed that there were approximately 40 young birds of each species. Most of the pelicans seemed to be at the same stage of development, whereas the cormorants

ranged from eggs, to newly hatched chicks, to fledglings. After snapping a few quick photos, we left the area to allow the parents to return to their young.

- Ken and Jo Jaarsma, Box 69, Caronport, SK, S0H 0S0; E-mail: <joken@sasktel.net>

EDITORS' NOTE: The history of nesting by pelicans and cormorants on Pelican Lake is uncertain. The site was not surveyed in any previous provincial colonial bird counts, and it may be a new breeding location for these species in Saskatchewan. For a review of pelican population trends in Saskatchewan, see:

Somers CM, Kjoss VA, Leighton FA, Fransden D (2010) American White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants in Saskatchewan: population trends over five decades. *Blue Jay* 68(2):75-86.



Young pelicans and cormorants on an island in Pelican Lake, SK



Short-eared owl.

Pete Hardie



Pelican chicks in a crèche on Pelican Lake, SK.

Ken and Jo Jaarsma