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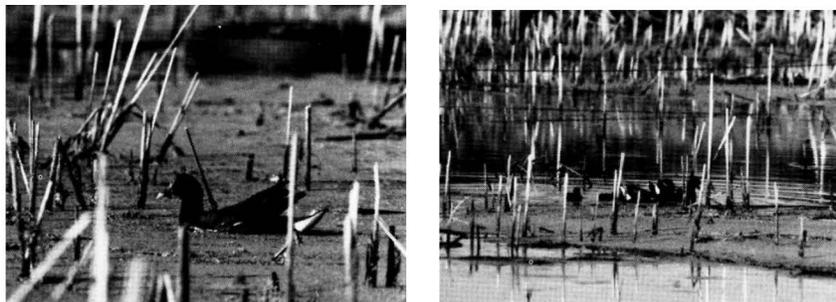
NESTING COMMON MOORHEN IN LANCASTER COUNTY

On 6 July 1984, at 6 PM CDT, I saw a Common Moorhen at the Capitol Beach marsh, in Lincoln. It was about 10 yards to the north when I first saw it, and I could see the red facial shield and red bill with yellow tip, the yellow legs, a thin white horizontal line along the side, and prominent white patches along either side of dark undertail coverts. It acted mildly agitated, and swam away from me but stayed in the vicinity.

At 7 the next morning I waded into the pond at that spot. This time I saw two adults that stayed close together and appeared to be a pair, and I found a nest with 10 eggs in a small clump of narrow-leaved cattails. The nest was a well-made, compact cup of cattails, floating on the



Nest and eggs, taken 7 July.



Adult and pair with young, taken 11 July.



Very Young chick (probably less than day old), taken 11 July.

water but anchored to the cattails. It looked more compact and of better construction, with a deeper cup, than an American Coot's nest. The eggs were tan, with small brown spots of varying sizes irregularly scattered over the entire shell. The ground color was darker and the eggs were less uniformly spotted than a Coot's egg. I measured one with a tape measure. It was $1\frac{3}{8}$ " long \times $1\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter.

One adult swam back towards the nest while I was attempting to take some pictures. It came to within 5 yds. of me, then climbed out of the water onto a floating board. It appeared to be upset at my presence, but not excessively so. Bill and Bonnie Mulder, of Lincoln, were watching all of this from the bank, and after I moved off they saw the adults swim back to the nest and begin incubating.

The next day, 8 July, at 8 AM CDT, I was wading in a marsh north of Lincoln, near 27th and Bluff Road, and about 4 miles from the Capitol Beach Marsh. As I came out of a stand of cattails I saw a Common Moorhen about 25 yds. to the north-northwest. It immediately started making loud, sharp calls, and appeared to be very agitated. It swam off at an angle to my left, and slightly towards me. A little behind it a number of downy young rushed across the water into some thick cattails. There were at least 7 of them, probably more, and they ran on top of the water on the floating cattail stalks and other dead vegetation. They were thickly covered with black down and seemed to have rather stout bills and sturdy legs. I think I could see a bit of red on the heads of a

couple of them, but they moved very quickly out of my sight and I'm not sure. I waded over to the spot but couldn't find a nest or any other sight of them. I saw the Moorhen here again on 29 July, but didn't see the young.

Daryl and Maragret Giblin tell me that they saw another, different pair of Moorhens with young at Capitol Beach, but I've seen only that one family group. I saw them again 9 August — one adult with 7 half-grown young.

— *William C. Garthright, 2240 N. 31st Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503*