

on the 400504-70 of the crane favoring the more permanent and greener area ^{likelihood} when up popped a long neck and body as the ♀ crane forcefully plunged into the air only 60 feet in front of us. This bird looked more like a whooping crane in size than a sandhill. It left with a call. 10 feet closer revealed the nest and 2 eggs. The ♀ flew south to where the ♂ had landed at 8:10 and remained there while we photographed and examined the nest and eggs. She called occasionally in a single guttural tone as she picked at the ground or walked over the ground. The walk was not forced for speed but she certainly covered territory in a short period of time, generally in a partial crouch. While standing still it retained a most graceful pose. In general her actions were nervous and indicated her anxiety over her nest which was in jeopardy.



1-5-4-40

Rather than alighting on the other side of the creek out of sight she chose to watch us from the center of a large clearing free from large scopus or Sragmites. The nesting area chosen was between the two main creeks in an area of moderate growth but all easily passable by foot as compared to the higher & denser growth adjoining creek edge. The scopus had followed after a fire that had burned out the previous stand of scopus, leaving now a burnt base with new ^{growth of} scopus about 3' high. The dense natural covering of dead scopus mat had been destroyed leaving only the comparatively sparse solid green stems of the scopus now as covering.