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Renesting Of A Black Tern

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During the evening of June 26, 1984, while conducting night-lighting on Rush Lake, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, we caught a Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) which was nesting on an artificial nest platform. This was one of nine platforms placed on the lake for use by Forester's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*). Black Terns, however, were using the nest platforms. We placed band number 512-81458 upside down on the tern's left leg. The bird was incubating when we caught it with a hand net.

On July 2 we found that nests on all but one of the platforms had been destroyed, probably due to severe weather. On July 18, while I (senior author) was using a floating blind to photograph birds, I came across a Black Tern which had constructed a nest on a deserted Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) nest. The incubating tern was wary of my blind as I slowly approached, and would repeatedly fly off the nest for a minute or two and

then return. I noticed that the bird had a band on it's left leg which was upside down. Each time the bird stood up I tried to read the band numbers through my camera's macro zoom lens. The nest was only about two feet from my blind. I could not read all the numbers, so I took several photographs of the banded leg.

Later we were able to read the band numbers from the slide film using a microscope. It was the same tern that we had banded on June 26. This was then a documented case of a Black Tern renesting in an area other than it's initial site. The new site was approximately one mile southeast of the initial site. Bailey (M.S. Thesis, Univ. of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, 1977) in a study of the breeding biology of this species on Rush Lake, noted that renestings in areas other than the initial sites probably occurred, but without marked birds identification of such renestings was not possible.