

Pelicans, Utah Lake, Utah 9/10/40 400910-140  
camped at mouth of Provo River last nite and made observations on bird and animal activity during nite and early morning. Stationed at extreme end of river on south side some 30' from the lake shore. Arrived at 11:00 P.M. and found the Great Blue & Black Crown Herons present; at least these were recognized. Watched a Blue Heron silhouetted against moon rays reflected upon the lake surface. At 12:00 mid-nite a muskrat swam up to the point some 8 feet from where the Heron was standing. The muskrat remained here for only a few minutes and then left directly for the bird. The Heron failed to react as the rat inspected at close range. Suddenly the heron jumped into the air with a surprise and fumbling movement and then flew 20' away where it once again struck its characteristic pose. The muskrat continued along its way. Several muskrats were observed swimming in river and lake adjacent to mouth of river. The last one seen just at daybreak. The moon beam across the lake was most fascinating, stretching from the very edge of the water to the west as far as the surface curvature would allow. The most impressive part of the beam being along its peripheral edges. Noticed that the sky at the distant end of the beam is totally black while ~~on~~ on either side is considerable lighter if not lighter than the rest of the sky in general. The total blackness below moon to water was indeed interesting. When dawn lights were sufficiently intense for a more critical observation found 16 Great Blues generally distributed at mouth of river some 80' away and none more than 300' away. These birds no doubt had been here the entire nite. Heard their calls frequently & their wing beats above. They generally called just before alighting. From daybreak to 7:30 at which time I left found the number of Great Blues to fluctuate keep, however, within the range of 15-20 birds. 19 were present when I left. While I was in plain view the birds did not object to the cat & sleeping bag where I remained the entire time. One Great Blue remained 90' away the entire stay. As daybreak advanced the tendency was for the Herons to congregate in groups whereupon they lost their rigid attention and alertness and became hunchbacked and subtle.