

400912-146

The birds were slowly but continually ^{standing up and by} 6:29 P.M. some 100 birds were up with the greatest numbers being at the south end of line. The tendency was for small groups to rise at a time at different sections of the mass. The usual manner of assuming their erect posture from their prone resting repose was to raise to their feet by a few flaps of their wings, then after stretching their wings would commence to preen their body and wing feathers particularly the breast feathers. Some would flap their wings and taxi among the other birds. In contrast with this new awakening activity was the dead earnest slumber of the great masses of birds. It appeared as if they were awakening according to a definite time and not effected by the mass reaction. Even after the mass evacuation commenced the shore line was still dotted with sleeping birds. Much different than when forced to leave all at once when frightened by an invader. The awakening was from south to north. with those birds arising first being the first to leave. No audible calls offered at 6:29 the first bird left followed by other groups and by 6:31 P.M. 51 birds had left. This first Convoy of birds was from among those at the south end who were first to rise from the resting position. All but 5 of these birds flew west toward rock island while the other groups, ^{of 5} flew south. The next group did not leave until 6:45, at which time 4 flew out a short distance from shore and lit on water, probably to get a drink of H₂O. Shortly 4 left north end of mass, flew down along mass and lit in among them. This proved to be the rule later on when the northern birds would fly down the line directly over the main mass before taking off to the water. The greatest number now standing up along entire mass but in the main the rest were still resting but progressively coming to attention. At 6:50 four left south end of mass and flew south to center of mass. At 6:50 P.M. could see great masses leaving their resting grounds at the north end of Rock Island. Rain & lightning in Tintic range and at isolated spots to south, uneffected here. Sky colors fading

6:54 P.M. 4 left north end, flew south over mass and continued south. 6:54 P.M. Slight increase in breeze. Pelicans now commencing flights in earnest not all at once but leaving in ever increasing numbers. Could count them one at a time at first but soon had to count by 10's as they established themselves in long lines to the south. To count them as they left the grounds ~~was~~ would have been impossible