

in a raft ⁴⁰⁰⁹²⁹⁻¹⁶⁸ water some distance out from water edge.
This raft of ^{formation on} 3,086 birds, as determined by blocking and estimation,
were in a long linear formation from a point directly west
from mouth of river to a point south near rock island. The
ends were thin but the main mass was a solid white front. It
was an exceptionally long linear raft of birds and to follow
along the entire length with the binocular, seemed endless.

Could see another group of pelicans on resting grounds at station
area established 9/12/40. Another group toward Pelican point
and others generally distributed to the N.W. of Rock island. The
day was absolutely quiet without surface agitation of water
which lent itself to serene comfort for the resting pelicans on the
water. Such, ^{summer like} day general mean a lack of activity of bird life
but found it to be reversed with more bird life in evidence. While
at mouth of river observed a fishing boat preparing to leave for
lake and knowing that the birds would be disturbed decided
to drive down to old observation station and wait for them to
arrive from water, if they decided to do so. On my arrival
the birds (pelicans) on N.W. resting ground left and flew out into
water. They could plainly see car approach although several
blocks away. The pelicans on the S.W. resting grounds did not
leave because the tamarix growth prevented them from see-
ing full approach of car. From car carefully worked out
to blind without being seen by the birds. These birds now
could be used as decoys for the main raft of birds on the
lake, once they were forced off the water by the fishing boat
and providing they decided to come here. There were about
900 birds on N.W. resting grounds and 1,100 on S.W. resting grounds.
The birds on the S.W. grounds, ^{at 11:30 P.M. after new reinforcement from raft} occupied about the same area
as the birds observed on the 12th of Sept. From the ob-
servation stations watched and waited and at 11:03 the fishing
boat approached north end of raft. The birds rose from the
areas nearest boat and flew north in long unwhirling lines.
As the boat proceeded south the raft gradually dissipated with
the birds flying in groups in different directions. Of these
birds 1109 of them lit on the S.W. resting grounds, making
now 2209 birds. They arrived in large groups but all flew
past one point making the count accurate. The readjustment or
the time of leaving raft was 25 minutes. The flocks were
again stable at 11:30 A.M. except ^{a few} the isolated & scattered birds on
lake. These resting birds remained until about 12:00 P.M. when