

Provo, Utah Co., Utah

Aug. 22, 1969

In evening took trailer to mouth of Provo River on Utah Lake. Camp on dike on n side of boat harbor. All evidence of Indian sites now destroyed and mouth river of artificial or modified design. In evening there was very little evidence of bird life. Notable however was a migration of bank swallows passing over dike from n to s at the rate of 500 individuals per minute. The migration ended abruptly at late twilight (9:00 p.m.). During the day there was approx 5,000 bank swallows resting on dead willows (or tamarisk) inundate along E shore just n of mouth of river. A few gulls, 3 kelledeer and 1 greater yellow-legs in area. The lake support a green skum on protected waters and rocks of dike were covered with a green moss, perhaps from increased nitrogen of water contamination. These mosses were not present 30 years ago.

Mouth Provo River, Utah Lake, Utah Co., Utah

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Early this morning skies clear but clouds moved in later. Photo 690823-1 of Cimpanogor and clouds from camp. It is interesting to compare a night at the mouth of the river last night with observation at night some 30 years ago. Last night the area was quiet; 30 years ago great blue heron fed along shore all night, black-crowned heron fed a call, sandpiper worked beaches, grebes called and ducks swam by in the moonlight & called as well as others. This morning there was an increased in bird activity including Calif gulls, Forster tern, spotted sandpiper, Cinn teal, bank swallow, pied bill grebe, western grebe, kelledeer, greater yellowlegs. These birds were in only limited numbers. There was an absence of pelicans, great blue herons. One western grebe fed in harbor in spite of boat activity. On a busy day of boating, a pelican would absolutely have no chance of survival! A section of the lake should be held inviolate to motor boat. On return to Provo, noted approx 510 black-faced glossy ibis in field approx 1 mi. E of mouth Provo River. Photo 690823-2 is of this group of birds. After being flushed they curled and alighted again. This field had been irrigated last night and the farmer claimed they were feeding on night crawlers. These birds seem to be increasing in numbers since 20 or so years ago.