


Returned to public swimming area and camped there. Birds in area were sandpiper (4 per 1/10 mi), willet (1 per 1/2 mi), blackbellied plover (1 per 2/10 mi), golden plover (1 per 2/10 mi), Forrester tern (1 per 2/10 mi) great blue heron (1 per 3/4 mi), laughing gull (1 per 1/2 mi), cormorant (1 passed by) ruddy turnstone (1 per 2 miles), killdeer (1 per 2/10 mi), marsh hawk (on dunes)

Padre Island National Seashore, SW Corpus Christi, Texas.
(Malaquite Beach) Jan 2, 1975

(8:45 A.M.)
Left at mileage 96451.4. Min temp 49°F last night. Cold wind on beach. In ponds and lakes on lee side of dunes were many ducks, 18 snow geese, 4 white pelicans, horned larks, ^{avocet Swallow. Curlew's} meadowlarks, great blue heron, forrester tern?, marsh hawk, few mosquitos, marsh sparrow of some kind. Most sand dunes have a rounded profile  except those that are active and then the profile is irregular. In flat areas the dunes are regularly placed (about every 50' and average 3 feet high). Gopher digging all along roadway and in other sandy areas. 456.2 leaving Padre Island National Seashore boundary. Strike the green plants are a vine-like plants that grows on sand and a plant that looks like a morning glory with yellow flowers. All the rest is a reddish-brown of grasses etc. 81.2 have seen 2 sparrow hawks only ^{74.0 and 78.0} on island. 84.6 ferry at Port Aransas. At least 12 porpoises in bay and attracted to ferries. Laughing gull, ring-billed gull common. Cormorants (10) in same area as porpoise. Continued over ferry, visited Aransas Pass and continued E. At 96.2 observed first ^{500.0-10.0 75.0 49.0} vultures (5 blacks). Have not seen large raptors along coast so far. Mockingbird. 96511.1 Lamar ^{10:45} just beyond bridge where boat is anchored for whooping crane excursion but not operating today. Continued E on highway 35. 29.3 black vulture. 39.5 turnoff to refuge. From Lamar have seen about 20 flocks of boat-tail, common grackles etc averaging 50 birds per flock (10-500). At above turnoff approx 400 in one flock. These birds are most commonly observed on the pavement of the highway and not in fields. 4 sparrow hawks so far. 96540 Aransas Refuge gates. Registered at headquarters and then drove to the observation tower E of Mustang Lake (Big Tree area). From here could see 2 adult whooping cranes to the west. They spent most of their time feeding in the center of a small lake beyond the main lake. This is the only birds in this particular area. Other birds observed here were: 1 Wilson snipe feeding on exposed flat; 13 roseate spoonbills, 4 great blue heron, 18 godwit ducks, 35 red-breasted mergansers, 65 white pelicans,