

Camp Fontainebleau, N side Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana

Dec. 30, 1977

min temp last night 52°F

Today will take boat trip on Mississippi and New Orleans bayous. Left Camp 7:30 A.M. at mileage 82473.8. Rained last night and travellers warning of fog in area. Counted ducks across Pontchartrain Lake causeway without reference to miles. Water under white cap surface. 5 ducks up against shore, gull, 4 ducks, 5 ducks, 8 ducks, 2 ducks, duck, 2 ducks, duck, 2 ducks, duck, 2 ducks, 3 ducks, 1 duck, 2 gulls, visibility about 3/10 mi, 4 ducks, 2 ducks, gull, duck, duck, duck, top of bridge, 2 ducks, gull, 7 ducks, duck, duck, duck, duck, 3 ducks, duck, gull, 5 ducks, 2 ducks, duck, 2 ducks, duck, sun shore thru clouds but been obscured up to this time, tern, gull, gull, tern, gull, duck, duck, 4 ducks, gull, tern, gull, gull, gull, duck, 2 gulls, rise in bridge, tern, gull, gull, gull, 8 ducks, 4 ducks, 2 ducks, 3 shorebirds, within 1 mile of S end of bridge, 2 ducks, end of bridge.

Summary of birds observed across Pontchartrain causeway in last 3 days is as follows.

	Ducks	scamp ducks	tern	shorebirds	swallow
Dec. 28.	8	167	1	0	1
Dec. 29.	16	214	0	0	0
Dec. 30.	17	93	4	3	0

Arrived at ferry at end of Canal Street to board boat for trip on Mississippi and local bayous at mileage 520 at 9:40 AM. Left on mark Twain at 10:15 A.M. Before departure from boat noted 1 scamp, 15 flocks of ducks (10-40 individuals) flying down ^{up} river and 2 flocks flying down river. At any one moment saw see approx. 6 gulls (ringbill) but at other times as many as 20. First blue sky at 10:50 A.M. This is to be a 5 hour trip. Guide says that it is 110 mi. to mouth of Mississippi by river but only 60 by air. As we moved down river passed many large boats ~~up to 200'~~ from all parts of the world, some moving but most of them waiting anchored in river for place in line so to speak to be loaded with grain, oil or other items of commerce. River in some places as deep as 200' and good depths to Baton Rouge but too shallow beyond for larger boats. The current is always fresh water at New Orleans and does not have tidal phases. Dikes 25' high but water seldom floods to more than 20'. Fluctuates according to rain. Level also controlled by gates into Lake Pontchartrain. Outside of the main Mississippi dikes the water is contained in 6' dikes and beyond the New Orleans area there are no dikes. Water does not mix with gulf water and does not have tidal influence. It is on these bodies of water that are stabilized that most of the marine commercial establishments are located. Continued down river to locks which drops the boat to normal coastal water levels and thence down the