

Coot also regularly eat shad, as large as ^{One took a shad from a Franklin gull. Pelican} they can handle, fish in shallow water by ~~the~~ turning heads and necks sideways, straight forward, and with mouths open swim forward, sometimes as far as 20' and as long as 15 seconds before pulling head & neck out of the water. The head and upper part of bill can be out of the water. One pelican caught a catfish that I would have judged to be about 14" long. The pelican worked on this fish for 60 minutes ^(1 hour) until I lost track of it. In the process it moved 150' from the general area of feeding. No other bird attempted to take the fish. The lateral spines of the catfish were at least 3 inches wider than the throat of the pelican and formed conical projections outward on the pouch of the pelican. The fish was kept head first in pouch with tail sticking out of the end of the bill. Sometimes the pelican would flip the bill upward and try to force the head of the fish nearer the gullet of the pelican. Sometimes this would result in a reverse position of the fish. Some adjustment was made with bill in water. After twenty minutes the fish occasionally moved vigorously in the bill. ^{at times the pelican carried the fish & bill on support of curved neck,} All ~~the~~ during this time there was a noticeable vibration of bill and pouch as if a sucking motion. Noticed at least 30 Franklin ^{3 Cormorant} and 10 ring-billed gulls carry sticks. Approx. 400 ducks in east end of channel and were of the same species as observed yesterday. No shorebirds. High water since yesterday have covered all secondary sandbars and narrow and reduced jelly area by 80%. At 12:04 all Franklin gulls instantaneously left sandbar and 90% of them returned in 4 minutes period, several thousand still remained in channel area and high in sky. It is incredible how fast the Franklin gull can can high altitudes after leaving the resting area. In less than a minute the sky looks like a 'salt & pepper' field and almost obscuring the sky. When they leave the air is one solid flutter of motion and I cannot see how they keep from striking one another. Most Franklin fly up or down channel and are the first to return but those ~~flight~~ flying high take longer to return and some ^(high fliers) may be leaving area and soiling to the S, noticed pelicans harassing gulls for fish and vice-versa. 12:16 plane passed over and displaced all Franklin gulls but not pelicans or ring-billed gulls. Some immediately settled back, others up and down channel and others gain almost out of sight heights. Of these their movement was not so much ~~strict~~ circular as in a small flock but random movement throughout the sky. Some at certain heights moved South. 12:21 most of the gulls that left at 12:16 have returned and are settling on bar. Some still returning.