

Goose Island State Park, Aransas Co., Texas

April 16, 1983

made boat trip (The Whooping Crane) to Aransas refuge to see the whooping cranes. Birds enroute; 3 great blue heron nests on one gas well platform near the causeway with three adults, each standing by a nest and one nest with young. The pilot of boat said the strong winds of a few days ago may have blown the young out of the nest. 5 cormorants, 12 laughing gulls, 2 common tern, 1 Forrester terns, 8 lesser scaup, 2 greater scaup, <sup>1 common loon</sup>. In canal or Intracoastal waterway about half way along noted an Audubon Cormorant on yucca 20' from shore on S side. Its nest was in a 4 prong yucca near top with small young. It flies much like an eagle. On return trip it was still in same general area, but instead of being in grass near shore was on the contact between water and vegetation. It walked with head down for approx. 40' and on only one occasion stood upright. It was not concerned with the boat and it remained there after we left. In this same area were 5 common porpoise running along side of boat.

The were not black but charcoal gray with some spots. They kept up with the boat and on occasions would surge forward at an accelerated speed which was unbelievable for an animal of that size. To others were seen out in the main Aransas Bay. Other birds in the Intrawaterway canal were 8 white pelican, 20 common egret, 12 snowy egret, 2 mottled ducks, 8 Forrester tern, 4 common tern, meadow lark, 2 willet,

at Goose Island checked pier at sundown. Only birds were 1 willet, 2 starling, 2 ruddy turnstones. 8 fishermen were on pier and beach of last island.

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This am at 7:00 3 Sandwich terns on isolated piles SW of camp. They remained until 8:20 A.M. at one time 2 sat on one pile and were never displaced by laughing gull occupying the other 7 piles. A Forrester tern, both adult and winter plumaged bird occupied 2 piles of the 8 piles. Adult would displace immature but never vice-versa. When sandwich tern feed they fly about 30-40' feet above water and on 3 of 4 dives they stopped before contacting the water and glided up again. The fourth dive was like other terns with solid body contact. They fly more like gulls than terns.