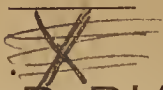


U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Form Bi-689



FIELD DIARY

Mr. E. A. Goldman

June 12 - July 2, 1926
(Official title.)

Period, Jan 20 to _____

Arkansas
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~~to~~ June 12, 1926
Left Washington, D.C. 2.50 A.M.
for Hot Spgs, Ark. to attend
National Conference on State Parks
and to visit game and bird
reservations in Ark.

~~June 13. En route to
Hot Springs, Ark.~~

June 14, Hot Springs,
Ark. arrived Memphis 7.25
A.M.; left 9.35 A.M.; arrived
3.20 P.M. at Hot Spgs.

June 14-17. Attending
National Conference on State
Parks. On June 15 trip was
made to Petit Jean State
Park and on June 16 to
Arkansas National Forest. Party
was guests of Tims Club of
Mena.

June 18, Ferrisrock, Ark.
Left Hot Springs 9 a.m. and
arrived Ferrisrock, 11.30 a.m.
Got in touch with Guy
Amuler and completed
arrangements for trip by
auto to Big Lake country
and game territory in
eastern Ark.

June 19. Ferrisrock to
Forest City.

Left Ferrisrock about 4 P.M.
with Guy Amuler, stopped
for supper at Ball's Bluff
and reached Forest City about
10 P.M.

Route through country largely
cultivated to cotton. Much
of this land formerly swampy

June 19 con,
and overgrown with cypress.
Now a loose alluvial soil
growing good cotton and
other crops.

June 20. Forest City
to Blytheville.

Left Forest City about 6:30
a.m. and drove for a couple
of hours to Wynne, where
we had breakfast and then
continued to Jonesboro where
we arrived at 9 a.m. Drove
out of town about 12 miles
to a meeting of the Crowley
Hills Fox Hunters Association
where Amos and I conferred
with the members of this
new organization who are
especially interested in

June 20 con.
stocking the country with
foxes. Met here Silver
Dudley, a lawyer, and
representative in state
legislature. Left Jonesboro
about 4 P.M. and arrived
Blytheville about 6 P.M.

June 21. Blytheville,
Ark.

Was joined by G. G. Bryan
early in morning and
spent day in a trip to
Big Lake Bend Reservation
and in consideration of
reservation problems.

Big Lake Reservation. An
area of some 11000 or 12000
acres formerly a wonderful
bass fishing area, but now

June 21^{con.}
largely drained and threatened
with complete ~~oblit~~ obliteration
as a water area. It was
formerly fed by a great
volume of water from
Little River, which combined
waters from Mississippi River
sloughs in southeastern Mo.
A drainage canal tapping
Little River has had the effect
of lowering Big Lake by
reducing the flow into it.

American Egret, A few seen
at Big Lake, but not known to
nest here.

Great Blue, Several seen.

Woodcock, Several seen by
Bryan while working ^{with} live
in May and June.

Wood duck - A number noted

June 21 con
at Big Lake this year, said
to be more young ones noted
than is usual.

See - a few said to resort to
Recreation,

Wild birds a few said to
come in on recreation.

Earthquake 1811, This placed
a number of oak trees into
unusual places such as Big
Lake and Sand 5 Cough leading
from Lake. Here the skeletons of
stumps and logs still remain.

June 22, Rhytown to
De Valls Bluff.

Left Rhytown and made
early morning trip to Walker
Lake. Here about 14 acres of
former cypress swamp - 2nd
growth included the nesting sites

June 22 con.

American egrets and great blue herons of which there were perhaps several hundred in the aggregate. Through local drainage the roost is completely abandoned and the ground beneath deeply cracked and dry and grows up to poke weed higher than a man's head. Only comp. few old nests remain.

Returned to Blytheville about 7 A.M. and left there about 10 A.M. for ~~De~~ Truman where I saw L. B. Nix who described roost of white and great blue herons near St. Francis River. Left Truman for De Valls Bluff about 3 P.M.

June 23. (Wed) De Valls
Bluff to below Ft. Charles.

Left De Valls Bluff 10.40 on
launch "Arkansas" of Arkansas
Game and Fish Comm. on cruise
down White Riv.

Beautiful views along White
River which we are descending.
Banks 10-30 ft. high. Causes
of stream very tortuous,
stop for lunch at Camden
about 1 P.M.

American scrub, one along
bank. oaks, ^{persimmon} sweet gum, pecan
Timber. Sycamores, oaks, on higher
ground - willows in lower part of
points where accretions are being
made.

Wild grape. Beautifully drooping
overhanging branches along banks.
Older drifting out our water at
this time.

~~General~~
White
Ark. Riv. Sun. views - clouds,
beautiful reflections of gracefully
drooped trees along banks - each
view seemingly more beautiful
than the last.

June 24 (Thurs)
Below St. Charles to Bridge on
White River.

Left place we tied up to sleep
bank last night about sunset
at 6.50 A.M.

Sterna cutellaria, several
seen early in morning a few
miles below St. Charles, flying
along White Riv. ~~and~~ ~~observing~~
~~them were finding~~ the
birds dropping at intervals to
the surface of the water and
evidently feeding.

Joe^{a.} Wilkins
Rosedale, Miss
or Watson, Ark.

Reached R.R. bridge across White River
about noon, and met J.A. Wilkins
who is in the business of handling

duck hunters from his house boat. Wilkins has the reputation of being a very reliable man and well informed concerning game conditions.

In afternoon a trip was made in Wilkins boat to some lakes in the woods above the mouth of Laque Bayou, on the west side of White River. These have water varying in depth from about 3 ft. to about 10 or 15 ft. and are in many places bordered by cypress trees. They are only a few miles from a great rice-growing area to the west where the ducks feed largely at night and they afford resting places for the ducks during the day. They contain myriads of small mussels

June 24 con.

which also afford considerable food for ducks.

Goose Lake. This is the place where the famous duck picture was made by Guy Amster last year. It is a lake of about 400 acres of the character of those mentioned above. Guy says at the time the picture was taken the birds covered the water so thickly everything that new arrivals had to pause to find resting places among those already on the water and they were densely packed for about 25 ft. back on the bare stopping banks. These lakes all contain some bass, but not in the former numbers. Guy caught 5 bass during the afternoon.

stopped for the night with
J.A. Wilkins.

June 25 (Fri.). Bridge
across down White River down
around Big Island and up
White River to point above H Lake
where we tied up for the night.

Left ^{Bridge} about 7 A.M. with ^{JA} Wilkins
and Guy ^{Amster} on trip on "Arkansas"
down ^{up} around Big Island and
back to Bridge where we arrived
on return about 2.30 P.M.

Big Island. This is the local
name to a large island located
at the mouth of the White and
Arkansas rivers. The clear water
of White River meets the reddish
waters of the Arkansas which
spreads across the head of Big Island
and sends strong streams around
both sides of Big Island into
the Mississippi. The island is
higher than most of the adjacent

country lying along the White and Arkansas rivers. Before the Civil War it was largely in cultivation, but is now almost entirely covered with 2nd growth forest. Formerly it contained a number of lakes, but most of these have filled up and only one of which mentioned remains. This has silted up across the mouth and floods have the water at a higher level than formerly, the result being that much ~~water~~ willow timber formerly growing along the border is being killed. J. A. Wilkins says that it is out of the line of flight of ducks and that few now visit the place. Turkeys on the island, also a considerable number of goats and hogs. The goats numbered divide into groups of 10 to 15 and tend to frequent the bluffs which rise about 25 ft. above the river in many places. In extreme high water most or all sum of this high island is submerged as happened in 1922 and all large animals are forced out.

H Lake. This is one of a series of beautiful lakes in the woods on the west side of White River a few miles above the mouth of Lagree Bayou. These vary from one to several miles in length, but most of them are narrow, varying from several hundred yards

to about half a mile in width. Large cypress trees commonly grow along the shores, the ground beneath being bare. This section furnishes resting places for myriads of ducks, which find in the rice fields a few miles away. About 25000 acres is said to be owned by Mr. Startz who is interested in hunting and is a hunter himself. The area contains considerable timber now maturing and some ready to cut. Mr. Startz might welcome the creation of a bird refuge under some lease arrangement that would secure him needed protection for his timber some of which is likely to be cut by timber men. This is said by Wilkins to be about the center of the best duck hunting country in Arkansas.

Ducks. Most of the ducks that visit this section - according to Wilkins more than 95% are mallards. A few tests of several kinds, wood ducks and others make up the remainder. Wilkins thinks that ducks are increasing, but says they have always been so abundant in this section that it is difficult to determine this point with certainty. They are so abundant that hunters have no difficulty, under ordinary conditions in securing the bag limit.

Wood duck. Several adults seen

June 25 con

flying in various places, and several litters of small young seen in the water. One litter of 5 young birds unable to fly seen at Goose Lake. Believed by Wilkins to be waterfowl but he says they are continually shot by the local people as the young are still eating during the summer. Wood ducks have always been common in this section. The young birds are quick to get away when one comes on them suddenly as they dive readily and may attempt to hide by leaving the water when hard pressed as I noted one day when the boat passed a bird close to the bank.

Left the Bridge at 4 PM, Mr.

June 25th con.

Guy Amster returning to Little Rock
by rail and Stanley and I
taking the boat up the river.
Dined at H. Lake late in afternoon and
we tied up to the bank several
miles up the river for the
night.

June 26 (Sat). From White
river bank above H. Lake to
De Valls Bluff, Ark.

Off up river at 6.15 a.m.

Pass St. Charles 9.30 a.m.

Sterna antillarum Flock of
15 on sand bar a short distance
above St. Charles.

Turdus, very abundant - often
a dozen may be seen on a single
log sunning themselves. As the
boat approached they drop off
awkwardly into the water.

June 27 (Sun)
Left De Valls Bluff 10 A.M.;
and by ~~the~~ train and arrived
Memphis about noon; left
Memphis 6.45 P.M. and arrived
Blytheville 8.50 P.M.

June 28 (Mon). Blytheville
to Truman.

Was met by L. L. Bryan and
made trip with him from
Blytheville to Truman following
southern route nearly to
Turrell and thence north
through Marked Tree.

Drove out to Eldredge
Landing where we saw ~~the~~
L. B. Nix and arranged with
him for trip into heron
roost near St. Francis River
tomorrow.

June 29 (Tue). Near
Truman, Ark.

With G. B. Nix and another
man as guide Bryan and I
made trip into ~~heron~~ woods
near St. Francis River. It
developed that Nix is not
so very well informed and
we had to do considerable
searching. Found considerable
timber being cut and dropped
out from points quite near the
St. Francis River.

Heron rookeries. Found one
rookery that had contained
several hundred nests broken
up by timber cutting which
included many of the rookeries.
Birds from here were apparently
moving to a site already

June 29 con.

occupied by a few birds, as indicated by fresh nests seen. The occupied site is in old cypresses, some of very large size, standing in shallow water ^{of the bottom} near the St. Francis River. Here I found perhaps 300 heron nests of which at least 200 were great blue and the remainder American egret. Also a few nests of cormorant and Anhinga. At least the latter birds were sitting on nests in tops of cypresses. Young herons of the two species were of large size. No yg. of cormorants or anhinga were seen. I am sure that this rookery is probably on land filed

June 29 con.
upon receipt by a soldier.
It was opened to entry last
writer.

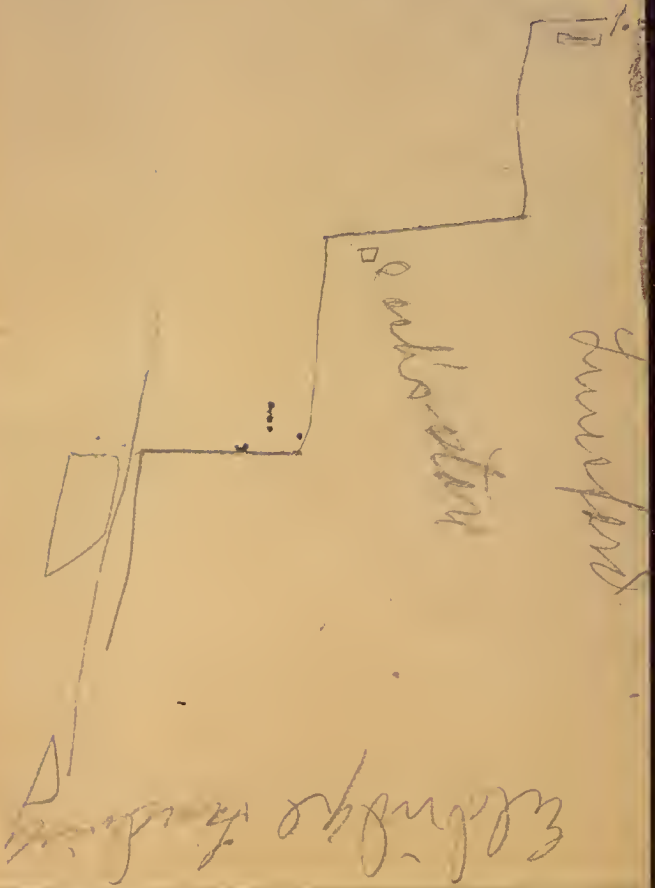
Returned to Truman for the
night.

June 30. Truman en
route to Washington.

Left Truman about 8.30 a.m.
and arrived Memphis by bus
11 a.m.; Left Memphis 7.30
P.M. for Washington.

July 1 En route
Washington, D.C.

July 2
Arrived Washington about
12.20 a.m.



23-1	Supper June 23 to dinner
24-2	June 24 and supper June
25-1	25 to dinner June 26
26-2	(6) 4.13 70
	6
	420

Mr. ^①Carmichael
~~State St. ?~~
 Jonesboro
 1012 Huntington Ave.

H. Goodman
 Jonesboro.
 Crane rook on his land
 probably

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,

Washington, D. C.

Bureau of Biological Survey.

N. W. Hawley
Sec. Big Game Outing Club
Bejerville

Dr. H. S. Davis, Pres
Big Game Outing Club and
of local chapter of
National League

Mr. Marshall cut about 20
over east line of sec. for
nearly 1/2 a mile near N. E.
corner, perhaps 50 trees -
Mr. R. Overton indicated -
Bryant, probably Marshall
would pay for timber as obolus
timber is serious offense in
Ark. Fresh cutting and he intend
us. to get out timber without con-
sulting warden.