NO NESTING — Eighteen years ago brown pelicans formed thriving colonies along the coastline and marsh areas. Since that time, however, the last nesting reported was 1961. What happened? The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is working diligently on the problem.

Pelicans Vanish From State, Possible Causes Are Given

(Continued from Page 31)

Re-establishing a resident colony of brown pelicans.

As an outgrowth of the meeting, 50 fledging pelicans were shipped from Florida in order for the Commission to investigate the possibilities of establishing a captive population of pelicans for experimental purposes and to release young birds for observation.

Two sites were chosen for releases: the Marine Laboratory at Grand Terre Island and the Rockefeller Refuge. Both areas had once supported large flocks of pelicans, and the beaches and surrounding marshes of Grand Terre provided ideal nesting habitat. The samples taken at Grand Terre brood learned to forage for themselves and thrived. The Rockefeller release did not fare so well, however, falling victim to a mysterious die-off. Sick and dying pelicans noticed on feed-

pelicans are put under stress such as periods of severe weather (which occurred in Southwest Louisiana at the time of the experiment) stored fat is turned into energy, and during the process, pesticides residues are circulated to other organs of the body. Because the liver serves as a filter for the body, it accumulates higher deposits. During a period of stress, if there is enough residue in fatty tissues, death ensues.

Bad Weather

The samples taken at Grand Terre where the pelican colony continued to thrive were relatively clear of insecticide content. The fact that the inclement weather which occurred at Grand Chenier was not e-

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