


The female percentage (this group could include ♂ juveniles of the year if they, the ♂ juveniles are similar to the females) is 54% whereas the male (adult plumage) percentage is 46% of the population. On a count of males only (548) on a second count after raft had moved into close quarters, the percentage was 49 which is 3% off the first count and shows an error introduced in counting or difference of birds as to surface or submerged individuals at the time the count is made.

At a time, after increase of raft from birds arriving from the north part of reservoir or at least beyond the area of the original group of birds, another count was made of individuals of the composite group which was 2146 birds. <sup>at most compact formation</sup> At the beginning of this count the sun was shining from the west and males were easily differentiated from females, but at this time a cloud mass or front pushed in from the west and the males become indistinguishable from the females because of the decrease in light and contrast. (20x binoculars). This factor of contrast is also true for white gulls. Like the male mergansers, when sun shines on these birds the white is in contrast like a white light which is turned off when the sun is obscured by a thick cloud. It is my judgement that a 10% factor is represented in mergansers which are submerged at time of count, so to the figure 2146 should be added 214 birds to make a total of 2360 birds in this wintering flock of American mergansers. Actually this number does not take into account other birds in other parts of the reservoir. Because of the hunting pressure in the Azawkie area I am of the opinion that most of the mergansers <sup>however</sup> are in the Rock Creek - Gap Point area.

It is the behaviourism of the merganser to swim into a bay or localized area and as the linear raft compacts at the forward movement, they disperse and start feeding. At this time the gulls are at their maximum feeding activity over the mergansers. The feeding pattern shifts thus:  with the raft formation spreading laterally. As the feeding ends the width of the raft is constricted again for forward movement. Noted several gulls actually make contact with mergansers which caused the merganser to dive, splash or tread water forward for 5 or 6 feet. At one time during maximum feeding activity there were 64 gulls (3 Herring, 1 Glaucous and 60 Ring-billed) feeding over and with mergansers, 62 on edge of ice, 18 on ice in middle of Gap Point Bay and 24 circulating in lake at distant points or a total of 168.

at 11:15 approx 600 snow and blue geese arrived from the north