

the critical area for early winter populations of birds, especially as the water in reservoir n of here to Agawoke becomes completely frozen. Juniper tree 58" high 150 SE of point.

As I approached this point and made myself visible to water below, a substantial part of a group of 1460 American mergansers left the water at the edge of the ice. These birds are extremely wary, even more so than mallards. Three short warning calls, believed to be made by one bird, started the movement of these birds. As they started to patter on the surface of the water it sounded like an abrupt heavy rain shower. The noise maintained a loud sound for 3 seconds and then in the next 6 seconds the noise decreased to 0 at the time the birds became airborne. There is ^a keen unison in the movement of these birds. Approx. 2 minutes later a second group of birds, presumably those on the ice or out of vision because of the shoreline vegetation, moved into a position where they could see their intruder, ^{and then left.} These left, as did the first group but not with the same intensity of sound. A third group did not leave until I approached the edge of the lake and then only some 50' away. These birds were on lee side of point (wind from S) and were in protected recesses of the ice sealed bank. These birds swam out into the lake for 30' in full view of my presence before they left in unison. I could see every detail of their plumage, bill and eyes. It is interesting that in one instant these birds will leave with the least amount of identification of the intruder and at a considerable distance while in another case, when surprised, will swim in plain view and at close range before departing. These birds on the lee side of Gap Point moved by flight to a new position 1/2 mile to the NW where they formed a long raft. They then moved to the SW and at that time I made an actual count of 1460 birds. As these birds are frequently diving as they move along with the raft, I would consider that 10% are missed in surveying their numbers, so to the actual count of 1460 would add 10% or 146, making a more realistic population number of 1606 individuals. A bald eagle ^{juvenile} left its perch on lee side of Gap Point and flew N and then W. This occurred about 20 seconds after the first group of mergansers

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