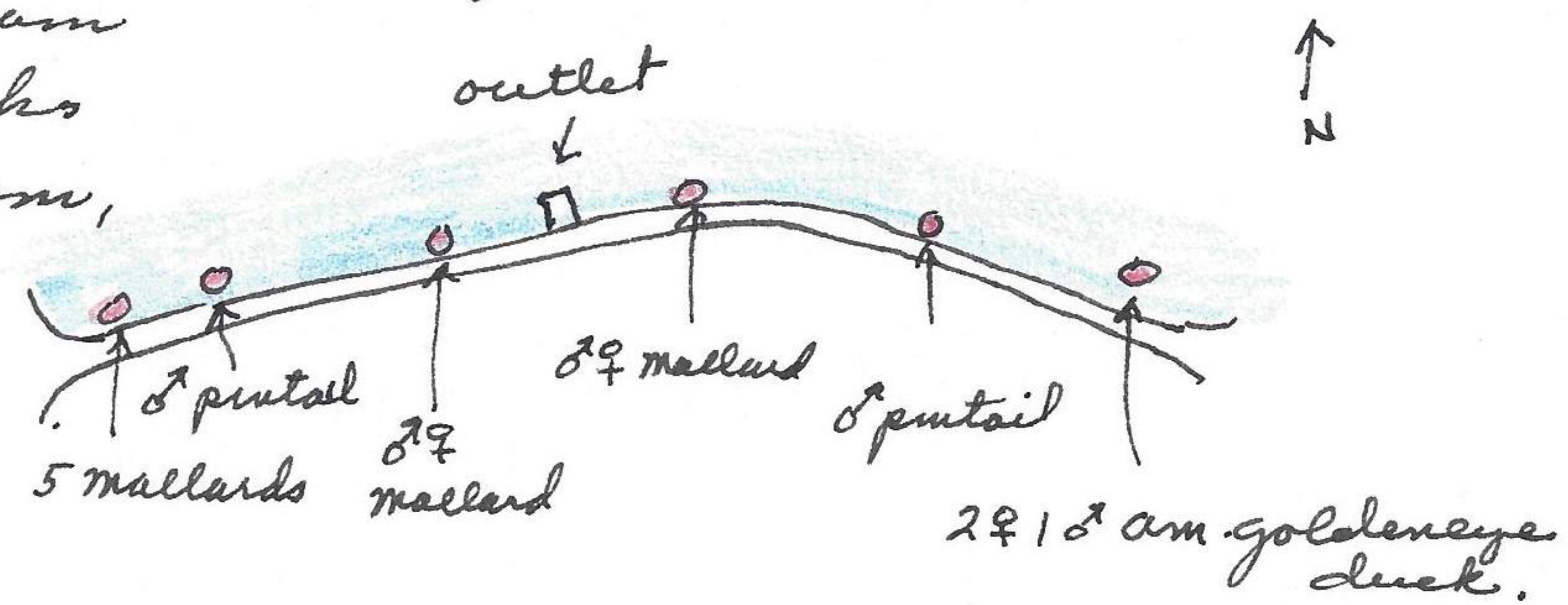


4:55

At this time (~~4:55~~ 5:55 P.M.) there were already approx 3000 blue and snow geese in water (see map) west of Gap Point. Other blues and snows were arriving from the north and in a linear flock as far as I could perceive with 10x binoculars. They were gliding down from a high level and coming straight in without deviation. Will keep record of number and last arrival time. In lake north of dam (see map) in protected areas which were NE segment on lee of Conspicuous peninsula and west ridge and into center of lake, noted approx 40,000 mallards. Wind from NW. The birds were closely distributed along shore and more generally distributed in lake proper. To these mallards were others arriving from the S and SW, flying over dam between the outlet and W end of dam, rarely E. of outlet. Do not know how many ducks ~~were~~ had passed over dam before 4:55 P.M. and what we were observing could have been the end of the evening movement of ducks back to the resting area in lake from their daytime feeding in fields. Beginning at 4:55 recorded the arrivals as follows:

500-50-14-2-7-30-220-600-50-50-4-6-3- (Canada goose single) - 4-8-8-5-15-8-4-5-8-9-6-3-5-5-1-8-4-2-5-5- (5:05 P.M) 8-4-1- (5:10) 6-4-3-2-2-4-10-17-1-2-4- (5:20 P.M) 5-1-1 (5:30 P.M) end of duck census. 1728 mallards total. The few ducks that moved into lake is a small number in comparison to the thousands of yesterday and indicates variation in the feeding and resting behavior of the mallard. Between 4:55 and 5:05 11,000 more blue and snow geese arrived making a total of 14,000 now on ice. At 5:32 there were 220 Canada geese arriving from S of dam. They flew north and alighted in lake in about the middle of the duck raft. On our original arrival at dam noted the following ducks at edge of north side of dam, either feeding or resting on ice at edge of rocks. The border (60') of ice had been reduced by wave action.



Have noticed that several lone ducks (mallard) find it difficult to clear dam. These birds are cripples or incapacitated, several had a foot dangling and frequently enlarged. These are the ducks that will be eliminated first by predators.