

1970-11

forth over mergansers but without success of identifying cripple birds or fish. It alighted on edge of ice (20' from merganser) and remained unnoticed by the geese or ducks or mergansers. This open water and the two near dam (made and maintained by birds) are the only open bodies of water in the Perry Reservoir.

Left car <sup>10:55 A.M.</sup> at steep road cut at E end of Gap Point and will gain top of ridge to W (Gap Point) and make census from SW point which is the best vantage point for area to W and S. At this rocky observation point made the following observation. The open water is approx. 280 feet long and 90' wide, and as stated above is the only open water except the 2 small open areas to S near dam. The ducks especially the mergansers have kept this water open. Another interesting feature is the new ice shoreline formed since yesterday when ice extended farther into the Rock Creek - Gap Point Bay. It is now a graceful curved line stretching from Gap Point to second promontory (see map) on west side of lake, and appears to have been formed by wave action and circulating currents. Most of the mergansers are swimming in the water but their action varies from active fishing to just swimming in unison from one end of the open body of water to the other, or resting (up to 20%) on the edge of the ice. There are 186 ♂ and 223 ♀ mergansers. In addition there are 232 Canada geese, 480 mallards, 30 green-winged teal, 8 coot, 3 male pintails, 2 baldpates, 3 buffle heads. The mallards are resting on ice but occasionally enter the water. The geese are on edge of ice but like mallards occasionally a group of 5-6 will enter the water. The geese are resting with heads on backs and of the water birds are least affected by planes or noise although a call is given at regular intervals which is ignored by the flock. While observing these birds will keep check on snow & blue geese movements and other noteworthy observations. At about the time of my arrival at observation point, the blue & snow geese were flying low and inspecting this open body of water for possible landing but instead left area and flew to north, gaining elevation as they left. I would estimate that there were at least 12-15 thousand in a percentage of 60 snows or more to 40 blues. They moved far enough N to loose sound but at 10:20 they returned and flew south directly over area at about 350 feet