

1970-19

ducks from SW. 5:17 now arriving at 100 per minute from SW and all alighting in main aggregate. Departure to N subsiding. Temp 30°F. 5:20 coots still in nearest pond. Ducks still arriving from SW. Main aggregate now with increment from SW building up flock to 4/5 original size of aggregate in spite of exodus of the mallards to the N. 5:22 3000 mallards from SW. 5:25 mallards still leaving main aggregate and flying to pond to north and at this time equally incoming mallards. Left 5:30 P.M. and at this time the mallards were arriving at approx 200 birds per minute while those flying N from aggregate were diminishing in numbers. At this time the main aggregate, in spite of influx from SW, is about 2/5 the original number because of the continuous exodus from this main aggregate here to the pond to the north. The main pond is a shuttle base of ducks coming from the SW to the pond in the Gap Point area. From down ~~west~~ <sup>drove</sup> W over ridge and down to Kaw valley, thence E to Thompsonville and thence toward highway 24. At about 1/2 way <sup>between Thompsonville & highway 24</sup>, could see hundreds of ducks rising from fields to the west and flying NE to Reservoir, others were calling in field. It is concluded that the events of today indicated that mallards were using the reservoir as a place to rest in safety, and in afternoon flying SW over dam to feed in field approx a mile beyond. and from late afternoon to dark, returning to the reservoir for resting. The entire aggregate of mallards were involved in this local feeding - resting behaviorism. As evidenced from previous days observations, the timing and precise direction and distance of the feeding grounds was variable but in the main was similar to today's activity. It was also demonstrated that the population of ducks can change rapidly, especially in building up a population on the lake resting areas.

Perry Reservoir, Jefferson Co., Kansas  
 Jan. 6, 1970

made check on ducks at Perry Reservoir in afternoon. It was reported <sup>Jan 4</sup> that the two ponds in ice (one at dam and one at Gap Point) were open and full of ducks. <sup>Annette Pond & J</sup> left Lawrence at mileage 41.0, sky clear, 3:55 P.M., temp 18°F. More ice below dam than on Jan 3. Will keep list of all raptors and meadowlarks only. 47.6 redtail, 24 meadowlarks, 47.9 Harlan hawk, 55.7 Perry Turnoff, 59.3 3 meadowlarks, 40.6 SE Entrance Park.