

The greatest number of ducks in a pond with the least amount of interference with birds either in the air or on the water. The size of the incoming flock is, in a way, an expression of the size of the body of water or raft of ~~the ducks~~ from ⁽³⁰⁰⁾ which the ducks, previously had departed. If the groups ⁽³⁰⁰⁾ completely 'smear' the pond it indicates equivalent size pond; if only a part of the pond 'runway' is utilized it indicates the pond was small and if more birds find it inconvenient to land in the new pond, would indicate the departure pond or raft was considerably larger. This would be based on an average condition as many flocks become divided or are amalgamated in flight. Increment of mallards in Gap Pond ~~are~~ is from both the south pond or mallards flying directly to pond from S beyond the dam. Most starting are crossing at shortest distance across lake. 5:00 ducks ^(mallards) arriving high and in long lines from high over dam and most of them landing in first open water at dam. At this time I would estimate there to be 12,000 mallards in Gap Pond open water and all swimming in water, (none on ice surrounding the pond). I would estimate that there are 36,000 in pond to S, or 48,000 combined. At this time (5:00) there is a steady stream of mallards from S pond and they are arriving or moving N at about 2-3 feet above the ice. This difference of movement of ducks arriving from beyond reservoir and those moving between 2 ponds in the reservoir is in contrast and may have some significance. The former birds move in with considerable action and conspicuousness, whereas the latter groups leave the pond quietly, unobtrusively and uninterrupted from the S to the N pond, as if attempting to draw the least amount of attention. 5:10 Since I have been observing this afternoon, I have not observed one single duck leave or arrive from any other direction than from the S. Left area at 5:15 and mallards still arriving in great numbers. The shadows ^{sun} now off Gap Pond but still ^{faintly} on ridge to E. ~~5:15~~ The reservoir N of Gap Pond as far as I can see is white with snow whereas the ice to S from Rock Creek Bay to dam is clear ice and free of snow. Did not keep census back to dam but there is more small bird activity along road. Temp still approx. 9° F. 86.5 main road at E W end dam. At 5:30 P.M., at