

area. Continued w. 91.8 2 6" redwings, Baltimore oriole, eastern Kingbird. 92.0 now to S. 2 cowbirds. now to E and stopping at 92.5 about 200' w of point where this old road enters the water. From here can see a double crested cormorant, 43 am. coot. 21 ring-billed gulls, 2 Herring gulls, 4 bluewing, 1 mallard, 2 lesser scaup. ^{3 forest tern} 2 meadowlarks singing on bridge dike. One spotted sandpiper and 2 sandwing feed on road where water was being forced on the surface by wave action. From 9:20 to 10:15 observed a group of gulls at end of road consisting of approx 18 ring-bills & 2 Herring gulls. They were resting and feeding and although gulls were arriving and leaving, the population on the resting grounds remained about the same. ^{at any one time} One to two birds (gulls) in the group were feeding on small fish (bullheads ^{avg} over 3 inches long. These fish, all alive, were picked up either at the edge of the water (splash zone) or out over the water where they picked them up from the surface and returned them to land. In all cases they were alive but could have been in the latter stages of death. In winter, gulls are voracious and will rob any other bird or gull for food. In spring, a gull can land and walk thru the group of gulls at rather close contact without being challenged except only occasionally. There are so many dead winter kill fish (mainly small shad but bullheads and other kinds) that gulls ^{are not} hungry. A small bullhead is killed and softened by repeatedly forcing bill closed in area just back of the head, after each time of manipulation the bird is dropped to the ground, preferably in shallow or at least a wet surface. One carried a fish 15' over dry road to edge of water. The gulls are adept at retrieving fish if wave action carries the fish beyond their immediate reach. After a period of 6-10 minutes the fish is taken into mouth and placed in position for swallowing. If it is not just right the fish is rejected and billed several times more and then tried again for acceptability. After an average of 5 tries, the fish is swallowed whole. Two or three thrusts of the bill into water with head down completes the act. The gull will then resume resting position. One however, immediately pick up another bullhead and started the feeding act. Ordinarily one gull will complete the feeding manipulation, but occasionally the same fish will pass from one to as many as 3 other gulls, each testing the fish for palatability. Noticed one gull leave a fish after 6 minutes. These behaviours were by ring-billed gulls. The Herring gull is more direct in feeding and is not as delicate a manipulator as the ring-billed gull. Although waves were only about 8 inches high (no white-