

Perry Reservoir, Jefferson Co., Kansas

Dec 11, 1971

Annette P and I made trip in Perry Reservoir area starting from dam and thence to west side, Ozawie and back. Left Lawrence at 10:20. Sky clear in early morning but clouds coming in from north. Temp approx 32°F. Ice on ponds along side of road. Will list kinds of birds between here and Perry. Meadowlark, starling, shrike, Eng sparrow, sparrow hawk. 08.0 Perry turnoff. tree sparrow, redtail. 10.6 SE corner of reservoir area. 10.9 Crow 11.4 east end of dam. Lake open, 4 goldeneye ducks feeding near shore of dam at east end. Common loon about 1/10 mi beyond. 12.7 west end of dam (1.3 miles dam). Now on Thompsonville road. Redheaded woodpecker. From vantage point can see 12 ringbilled gulls and some ducks flying over lake. Red-billed grebe, bluejay, redtail. 18.9 on road W of lake noted approx. 300,000 starling in one flock. This group extended for almost a mile with local concentrations. At N end of Jefferson State Park noted redtail hawk, 4 ♂♂ and 7 ♀♀ goldeneye ducks, 2 ringbilled gulls associated. Beyond on a point were approx 50 ringbilled gulls. Hairy woodpecker, redtail. Counted 137 ringbilled gulls resting on a point of land east of New Ozawie. 33.2 Ozawie area. Redtail hunting on slopes of bridge approach. At Old Ozawie counted 137 goldeneye, 64 ringbilled gulls and 2 Herring gulls (one an immature). Red-bellied woodpecker, redtail. 45.6 Longview Point. 46.2 first group of tree sparrow observed so far. about 25. Birds unusually rare today. Big Slough Creek a redtail. 10 slate colored juncos. bluebird (eastern), red-headed woodpecker road kill, 2 crows, 65.0 NE end of reservoir. Cardinal, redheaded woodpecker yellow-shafted flicker. This day has seen very few birds and is frequently associated with the time of day and if the day is windy. The roads are now in good condition and are all good for rain. Snow is a limiting factor later in season when drifts stop ones progress. It would be interesting to establish a station on dam and check birds moving across this barrier and then see reaction to meeting body of water. The rock slope of dam on N side is a unique habitat for birds and mammals and would be a good area to check mammals from time to time. The S side, now in grasses would also be an interesting area to observe successional progress of vegetation and mammal buds.