

41-75

Left 402 Yorkshue, Lawrence at 12:00 A.M. at mileage 99293.8. Temp upper 30's, wind from NW and moderate. Small patches of snow on extreme N exposures, otherwise countryside free of snow. As stated before, census is not complete but have recorded information that come thru malfunctioning recorder. 07.7 5 starting. 18.4 redtail. At bay just S of the Gap Point bay, the bay was open from head of bay out to 40 feet. At the bay immediately south of Gap Point (90% ^{open}) were 8 lesser scaup, 1 redhead, 4 bufflehead. They swam out to open water of lake but returned later. The pond east of old county road was 80% open and remaining ice was in center of pond. From road S of Gap Point could see the following birds in open water of lake (see map on previous page). Approx. 4000 American mergansers generally distributed in open water but mainly along N edge of open water. They were in small groups of from 2 to perhaps 30 birds. There was considerable action between males although the females would manytimes chase the males. There was not the active fishing as when in compact groups of winter. The original approx 18,000 blue & snow geese were joined by another large flock of 8000 from the south. The birds remained mostly on the edge of the ice but many swam adjacent to the ice. There was more chasing of each other and more activity in general than the geese moving S in the late fall and winter. There was considerable bathing in the water. The 140 white-fronted geese were in one group but the group consisted of some Canadian geese also. The main group of 60 Canadian geese formed the W end of the snow & blue flock. 40 redheads were in small groups and generally distributed as were the 8 canvas backs. 180 lesser scaup were also in small groups averaging 8 birds. The 300 golden eye ducks were generally distributed and in small groups of 2-6 or more and favored the S side of the open water. 24 ringbill gulls were generally distributed and were not following the mergansers. 4 buffleheads were together in one of the bays along with 5 scaup & a redhead but maintained the small group as such. 18 pintails were generally distributed. The percentage of blues & snows was approx 65 blues to 35 snows. This figure was determined by the birds in the air and seemed to hold true for the various groups. Arrive boat ramp at Gap Point at 19.3 no open water directly north of here to at least Ozawkie. 20 tree sparrows and 8 juncos here. Left at 12:30 for Paradise Pt.