

42-25

The major bird activity was certainly in the open water w of Gap Point in the lower part of Perry Reservoir. Enroute to Paradise Point noted the first activity of fishermen (3) fishing from bank. There was also an increase in cars touring the area. At Ozowhie bridge noted open water for 50' N of the bridge and 200' S of bridge with a narrow lead continuing S for another 1/10 mile. There was also open water along south exposed banks SW of bridge, but there were no birds in the area. Continued to Paradise Point arriving at 1:30 P.M. and camped at high point where 2 roads cross (old homestead site) and immediately got the car and trailer stuck in the melting soil. Wind chilly however. Worked until 4:30 on car and finally got car & trailer on solid soil for the night. At the time of my arrival there were the following birds in the area NE of the peninsula where the river channel emptied into the open water of the lake (see map): 1000 ringbilled gulls, 3000 Am. mergansers, 450 mallards, 18 white-fronted geese, 30 golden eye ducks, 180 scaup, 20 pintails, 40 red-heads. There was considerable activity of the mergansers, gulls and ducks. Between 1:30 P.M. & 4:30 I was preoccupied with the car but did not notice too much movement of birds N & S across the peninsula. Shortly after 4:30 set 100 traps in two lines (see map) both lines in general area of trapping of this fall. The entire area is now in thick matted grass and the vegetation is dry and dusty to separate for checking runways. There are very few places where runways can be seen without separately laboriously the dense matted grasses. Grass windows are excellent. There is a short curly grass that is, in my estimation a detriment to *Synaptornis* and especially *Microtus communis*. The upper line was relatively unproductive in areas where formerly was very productive. The N-S section of this upper line was in higher less matted *Andropogon* and more productive. The N-S line was in dense matted grass with encroachment of locust. all traps 15' apart except 10 concentrated in and around either a badger or coyote den. Coyote tracks at entrance. Completed trap set at 6:30 P.M. and on return to camp noted that there were no ringbill gulls in the area N of peninsula nor had I noticed which way they departed. At 7:10 sun touched horizon. 7:15 mallards in upper river (lateral creek to main channel and only about 15 Am. mergansers, again I do not know where the mergansers went to - either S to Gap Point area or up Delaware. 7:30 great horn owl flew by. A marsh hawk sailed down trapping drainage earlier.