

46-75
 forage in other parts of the area but eventually the 3 would regroup. There was a bumping (sideway) of the young in displacing. If the approach was from overhead the ground bird would react by flinching. Crows would make this kind of overhead approach with the eagle reacting but the crow would never contact the eagle but alight 2 or 4 feet from the eagle and make no further advances until the eagle would leave and the crow would then move over to the spot where the eagle had been feeding. If an eagle would glide (20-30 ft) over gulls, they would leave by flight and then reform. Merganser tolerate eagles if the fish is independent of the merganser and I have observed eagles pick up fish from the surface of the water 2 feet from the merganser without the merganser reacting to the eagle. If the merganser is depending its fish in its mouth it will dodge or dive when the eagle approaches. Mallards leave area and diving ducks generally submerge.

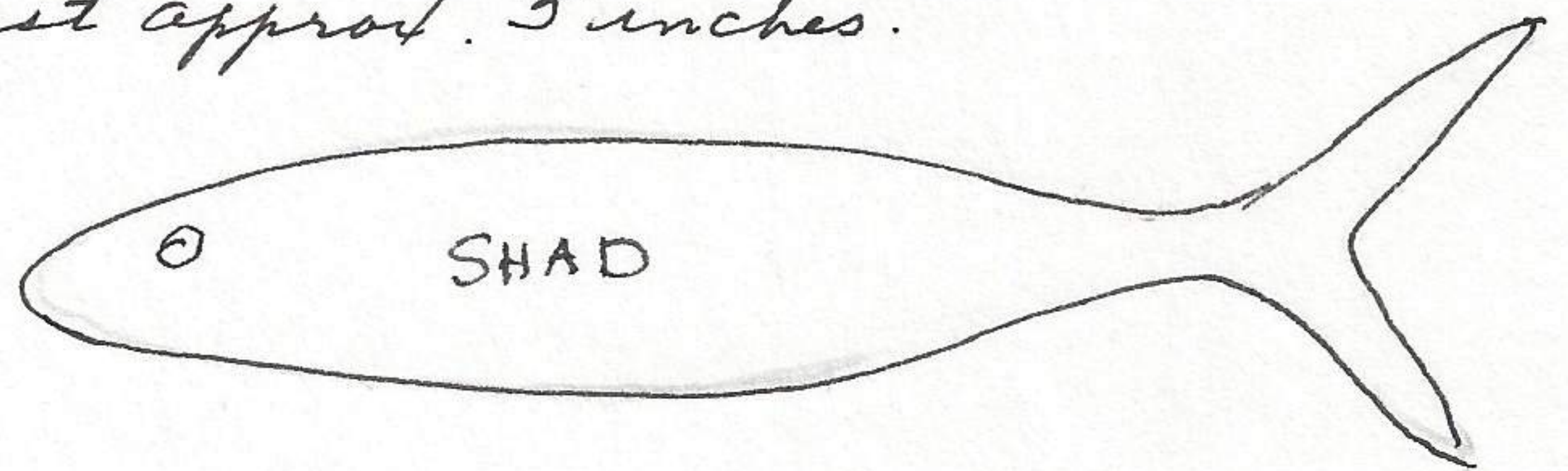
Approx 90% of the time that eagles are feeding they are on ice, the other 10% in either in flight or on low perch as a drift log (3' high). They always face into the wind and will occasionally look in various directions while feeding. They feed on small leftover fragments of fish? and once they accept the food will generally finish it, and then will move on to the next nearest object on the ice.

On several occasions they seemed to pick at ice to get a fish that had been frozen into the ice and now near enough to the surface to be excavated. For some reason they will

pick up a ^{dead} fish that is on the surface of the ice and completely consume it. These fish are either melting out of the ice or are being refused by gulls and crows who are also scavenging as are the eagles.

The fish are all small, the largest approx. 5 inches.

The color is a metallic white and the tail is deeply forked.



There was one area of 2 square yards in which 8 such fish were lying on or near the surface of the ice, but not being consumed by the many gulls that surveyed the area. When feeding on the ice there was a tendency for one or the other leg to slide out from under the bird.

Practically all food was ~~seen~~ held with claws on top of the food. One 3' projection of a log was used to perch while feeding on fish captured from mergansers. On two occasions the eagle was unable to perch and feed on the narrow point and in both cases slide to ground where they continued to feed. On two occasions eagle washed to edge of ice after feeding and with toes partly in water picked at its feet as if cleaning the foot.

at 11:15 a third eagle arrived (immature but with more white in tail and on head than the two already ^{dark} in the area. The chin & stripe above eye indicated an older bird than the above. Wings had prominent white bars.

