

55-75

to NE (see map) actively pursuing and catching ducks. This is the first eagle that I have observed that has been pursuing ducks as food, all other activity has been mild gestures or interest in fish associated with the feeding activity of mergansers or gulls. This eagle entered flocks of ducks (maclards & pintails) and would attempt to capture the birds with outstretched claws and twisting & turning body. Sometimes it would fly fast about 15 above surface but instead of a fast strike would slow down when over its prey and practically stop its forward momentum and then drop down to make its actual attack. Sometimes it would follow a particular bird for 3 or 4 seconds as the <sup>duck</sup> bird were trying to evade the eagle by diving or splashing in the water. At one time the eagle flew into a group of rising pintails and caught one of the pintails and dropped to the ground with the bird in its talons. Four adult bald eagles were in trees N of the area and the entire population consisted of 4 adults and 4 immatures. While the eagle was pursuing the ducks a crow followed the eagle and made near contacts several times but the eagle did not react as it usually does in either the air or on the ground. A marsh hawk spent most of the time flying in the area and feeding occasionally on the ice. At one time it flew over to my position to inspect then flew back.

Left area and returned to car via open field on top. Coyote tracks mainly in peripheral area <sup>among trees</sup> & not in field proper. Reassured myself that the position (on map) for an observation tower is the appropriate one as one can see to S, W and N at a point where most water-fowl fly over the peninsula, from S to N or N to S.

Returned to car and at 11:26 A.M. a marsh hawk flew over snow covered field and in a partially exposed weed patch captured a *Microtus ochragaster*. After 20 seconds it started to pluck hair from the body removing 18 such patches ~~and~~ (about 1 1/2 sec. per pull of hair) and at 11:28 started to eat at the anterior end. Intestines were not eaten but picked up & dropped to front of bird (4 rejections). At the mouse in 4 minutes in 11 fragments. Left ~~at~~ <sup>(the hawk)</sup> at 11:30 and made several circles above weeds and then made strike at a mouse but missed. It alighted on a log 50' away and rested.

It is obvious in this area that one of the most difficult area for management is the area between low water and high flood water, now in weeds and log debris. Because of the drift timber it makes control of young trees difficult. Flooding may be a way to control this area. As I say it is the most serious and