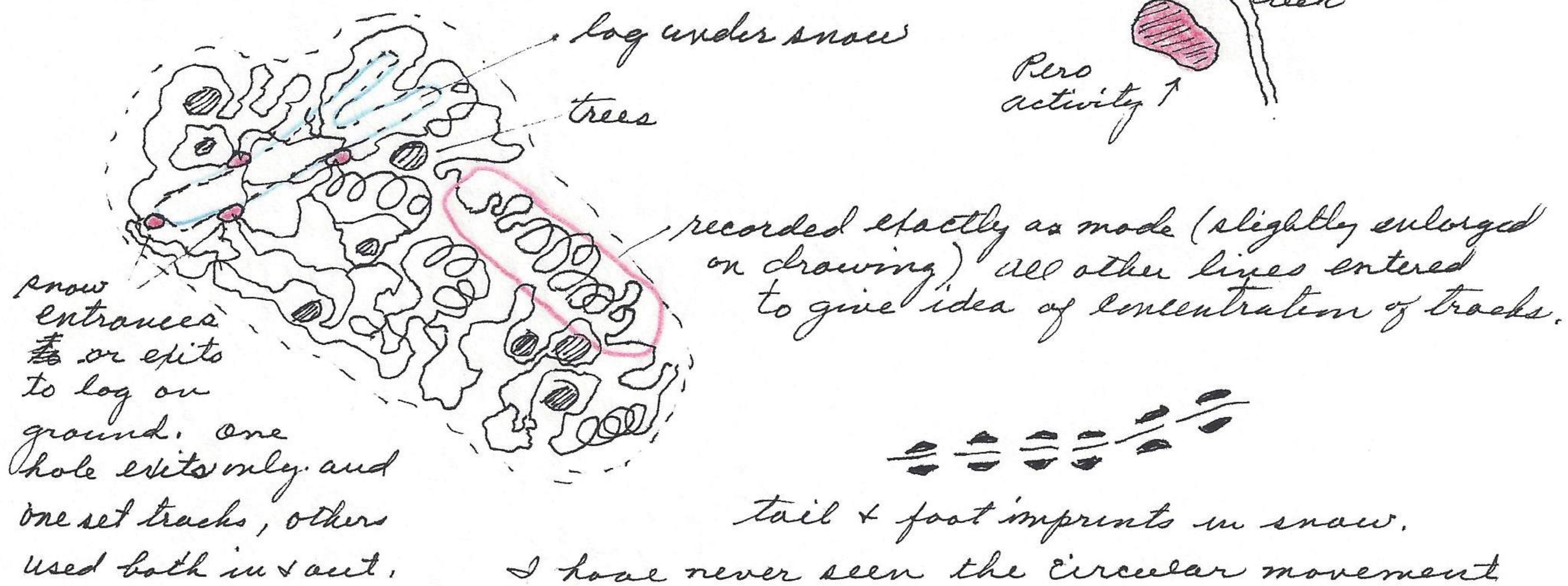


Continued to Coyote den site. Not used by Coyotes but by cottontails which are numerous in the area of short shrubs in the utility right-of-way, no running water in creek but iced over from prior water. ~~Since~~ level end now collapsed but covered with snow. On ^{top of} west bank SW of coyote den site a Peromyscus leucopus or Microtus pinetorum had left its trails and imprints in an area 35x20 feet. The activity was concentrated in this area and not beyond its borders.



I have never seen the circular movement in snow before and I wonder if the mouse had semi-circular problems or some other balance ^{related} disease, starvation, malnutrition etc. I had examined all the large oaks where this mouse is captured by placing traps at the base of the trees. There was no evidence that these mice were active in these situations or did I notice them anywhere in the forested area except the above locate situation. It is unusual that it confined its activity to definitely prescribed area and did not go beyond.

The greatest activity of coyotes is in area marked by hatches on map and in this area the tracks were about every 30' or so, some using trails in snow. Beyond this area, except to SW where I did not check the tracks were of coyotes generally passing thru the area. Noted tracks of one coyote following a rabbit trail and when 28' away from an old dead oak that was inhabited by gray squirrels, it increased pace to 8 foot jumps toward this tree and apparently caught a squirrel as blood was in trail leading away from the tree. Also noticed coyote tracks with 10' intervals of coyotes entering forests from outside as if being pursued or was evading being pursued. Most coyote tracks were concerned or associated with areas inhabited by squirrels or rabbits and in this area there are many this year. One coyote had dug thru snow to a dead rabbit and had consumed all but some of the hair. From the coyote area