

This early morning was overcast a occasional rain. By the time I left it started to snow and by the end of the trip snow had accumulated to 2 inches of slushy snow. It continued for the greater part of the afternoon. While in the Big Slough area the wind ^(from N) was producing big waves with whitecaps. Occasionally, average 1 per 5 minutes gusts would blow and trees would bend with noticeable wind noise. Across open fields and water the wind and snow was almost intolerable, even the protection of a trunk of a lone tree ~~was~~ gave some personal protection. Snowed the entire time in field with visibility 1/10 mi for detail and 2/10 obscured of detail and beyond 2/10 obliteration of landscape. At point of mouth Walters Creek, could just see trees on E side of lake but no detail, just a grayish outline of ridge, so could not determine if bald eagles were in their usual area. Wind up to 40 miles.

Some observations in the field:

1. Observed 4 redbreasted woodpeckers (2 groups) among dead tree in bay along lake. Considerable drilling & bark exfoliation on living trees.
2. Great blue heron alighted on top dead tree in small bay but left on my approach.
3. 5 cardinals, 1 fox sparrow, no juncos, chickadees or tree sparrow in what would be considered prime habitat.
4. Snow is plastered on N side of trees, especially those trees in open exposure. Dead trees in lake were ghosts. On return home signs were covered with snow on north side but clear on S side. Could not be read.
5. 4 Crows in 2 groups and flushed from protected areas.
6. 1 great horned owl.
7. Wild onions on floor of forests 8-11 inches high.
8. one cottontail.
9. dead raccoon 38" total length.
10. 3 scoups at mouth Walters Creek and only ones observed entire trip.
11. fragments of a perch, ^{fresh in forest} 300' from water
12. 1 bluejay.
13. only 2 ring-billed gulls where flying up wind with difficulty.
14. Less snow on ground on lee side of isolated trees or forests.
15. A bald eagle (adult) flew by me (see map) about level with tree tops and continued up an open field in a NW-SE drainage. As it neared the top of the ridge the winds buffeted the eagle and caused it to loose flight control temporarily. Visibility thru snow at this time 1/10 mi.
16. measurement of water at road culvert (at great blue heron alighting is 8 inches below cement which is the top of the road ^{rd.} _{plastic} ^{8 inches})
17. noticed several qt. gal. ^{plastic} containers in forest some 200 feet from water edge and am wondering if they are being blown inland from the water. Several areas where boats have had picnics on shore and ground littered with debris.