

at the river bottoms N Hat Six Ranch observed the same concentration of antelope. From a point on highway 232 in shallow valley between Beaver Creek and larger valley W toward Hat Six Reservoir noted a large prairie dog community of approx. 1500 mounds. 50 prairie dogs were active. These animals are utilizing the vegetation of the area and it points up the fact that these communities should come under the protection of wildlife agencies both by patrolling the area and by purchase of the property. The ranchers should not be responsible for perpetuating <sup>the excessive numbers of</sup> these animals or any other animal (game species) at their expense. Prairie dogs are inhabiting unprofitable dry areas but eventually these areas will be made agriculturally or productive grazing lands with manipulation of water resources and at that time the dogs will become extirpated. It is in this area that Mr. Lineman (see Aug 10, 1980 for particulars) collected the black-footed ferret and made several photographs of them. In this area were 3 families of sparrow hawk with each family consisting of adults and 3 to 4 young. At the turn-off ranch road to Brooks Ranch met a Mr. Thomas J. Varcalli (1733 Westridge Way, Casper, Wyoming, 82601) a game warden of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. He is a former student <sup>and advisee</sup> of Dr. Reed Fautin of the Univ. of Wyoming (Emeritus). Mr Varcalli was counting the age groups of antelope in this area of which there were approximately 45 animals. He met the present manager of The Brooks Ranch and got permission to travel across his land. Varcalli invited me to transport me to Beaver Creek Canyon as he was interested in the golden eagle nests that I was planning to investigate. He told me that he had checked on a pair of golden eagles in Chalk Canyon <sup>S. exposure,</sup> which hatched and raised successfully 2 eaglets. It was my feeling that he had not been to the Beaver Canyon eagle nests. He reported that there were so many antelopes in this area that they were going to open season and harvest 1500 to reduce numbers. I told him that these areas here are areas of concentration and that there should be means of dispersing these animals for at least the critical periods of ranch land productivity. Actually these ranches have ~~exposed~~ usurped the normal and originally favorable grazing lands of the antelope so the animals should at least share the areas as normal, natural constituents of the land. The excessive numbers of antelope should be dispersed by trained dogs <sup>(1 extpel)</sup>