

The sun was straight in back of me and the owl had its eyes almost closed but facing me. The nearer I got the wider its eyes were open and at 55' they were circular. It turned its head lakeward, then back to me & then left. I had noticed that when the owl alights either on rocks, logs or ice it does not change position until displaced. Height water 874.8. Most holes in road not used but mink had investigated several. Returned to station 1 at 11:47 AM. Temp at end of trip 27°F. See movement diagrams next page

In summation: Average distance snowy owl left ground on my approach on trip N-5 on dam was average 459 feet (200-800). On return trip with sun at my back and difficult for owl to see me I was able to approach within 55' before it left. Only one time for about 50' did it use the road but always flew to the lake before moving up or down. I have never seen it more than half way up slope of dam. It used are between road & water where most of the logs & debris is located. The coyote tracks seemed very fresh but could have been made any time last night. I would guess there to be from 5 to 7 coyote represented in the area, most of them travelling north and finally E over dam. The edge of the lake that supported ice and some snow and the road seemed to be the routes travelled most of the time and these the walking was direct with minimum deviation. The mink were represented by probably four individuals, some concentrated in an area around station 15. Most of the mink were confined to area between water (ice) and roadway and just beyond 15-20 feet. I saw no evidence of mink among rocks on upper reaches of the slope of the dam. There was movement on ice and lower rocks that I was not able to conveniently identify but these case were in the minority. The area of activity, especially the one that travelled over 250 feet toward the open water beyond the ice would indicate that the animals were indeed accustomed to and dependent on water. I had noticed that as they followed the shoreline on the ice, they would pay special concern for large logs or masses of debris and would show increased activity as if searching for small mammals that might be using the protection of the logs. In one instance it skidded to an opening at the end of a log as is to surprise an occupant.