

Perry Reservoir, Jefferson Co., Kansas
Feb. 22, 1981

Annette and I to reservoir to check on bald eagles. Enroute from just up Kaw River from Kansas Power and Light, made binocular survey of river at 6 places up to Leecompton we did not see eagles. At junction of road to Perry Reservoir at highway 40 noted an immature '110 mi. N of 40 on Delaware River. It dropped down to within 10' above river and then continued N.

The most dramatic thing about Perry Reservoir were the numbers and distribution of the ring-billed gulls. I would estimate 2000 and generally distributed throughout the lake with a tendency to congregate in bays and S end of shorelines. Wind strong, temp. in 40's and when exposed to it the hands became chilled and uncomfortable. Although I did not see many fish captures, I presume they were feeding on winter kill shad and other kinds of fish. The gulls were definitely using the winds to survey the lake. At times I thought I could see a tendency for the gulls to move N but this may have been a factor of wind. There were always more gulls at S ends of bodies of water and overall more were observed at S end of lake than at Paradise Point area, while most of them were in the air there were at least 10 rafts of them, each raft varying from 10 to 80 gulls. Of specific numbers, from Gap Point at boat ramp counted gulls in swing of binoculars from point NNE from Gap Point to E end of boat ramp as 196 gulls. From dam from W side of lake to marina as far as glasses 7x could carry, 360 gulls. In Bay E of Slough Creek bridge (from bridge) 210. many more up bay to N where we observed the greatest congregation of gulls.

Photo 810222-1 of Bay S of Gap Point
Noted 82 Canada geese flying N over Gap Point, very few ducks of any kind and no bald eagles. at boat ramp on W side lake at second peninsula took 4 photographs of wave action on rocky shoreline, nos 810222-2, 810222-3, 810222-4 and 810222-5

usual birds around lake but rare, included - in red tails 3, sparrow hawks 3, meadowlark, bluejay, robin, slate-colored juncos, 1 horned lark, cardinal and yellow-shafted flicker.

The two beaver houses on W side of Bay Slough Park, one in pond at Gap Point and the other in first bay to S, are both associated with the bank.

House typical of houses that stand alone in water in contrast to bank house.

