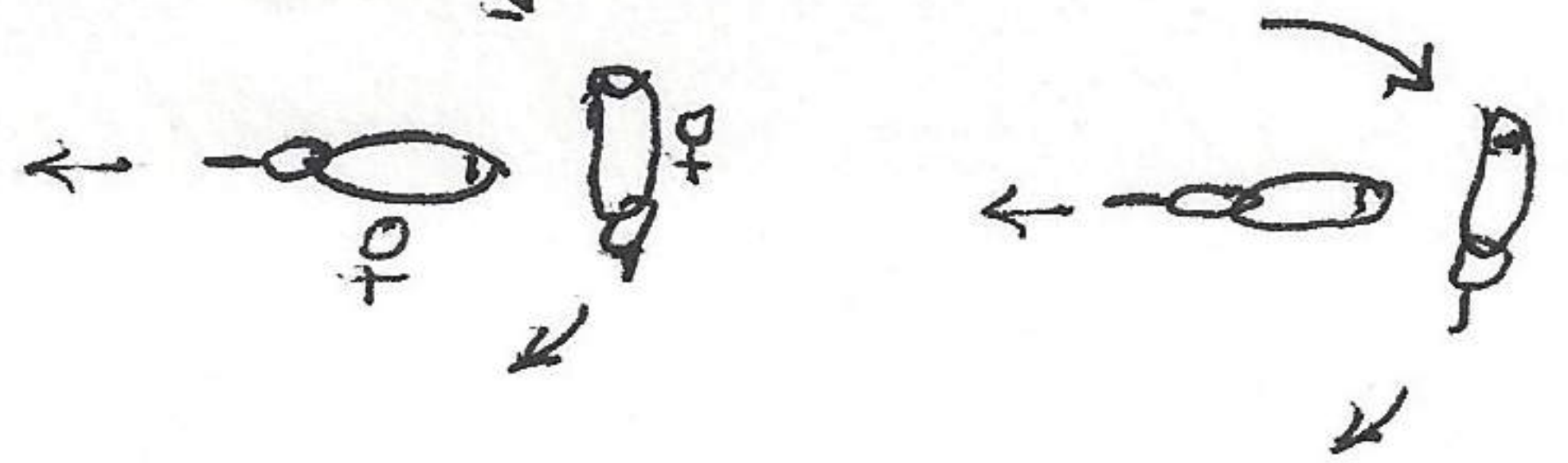


The female would swim the the male and the male would then swim behind the female. This close association and consecutive swimming pattern continued the full 120' of observation.

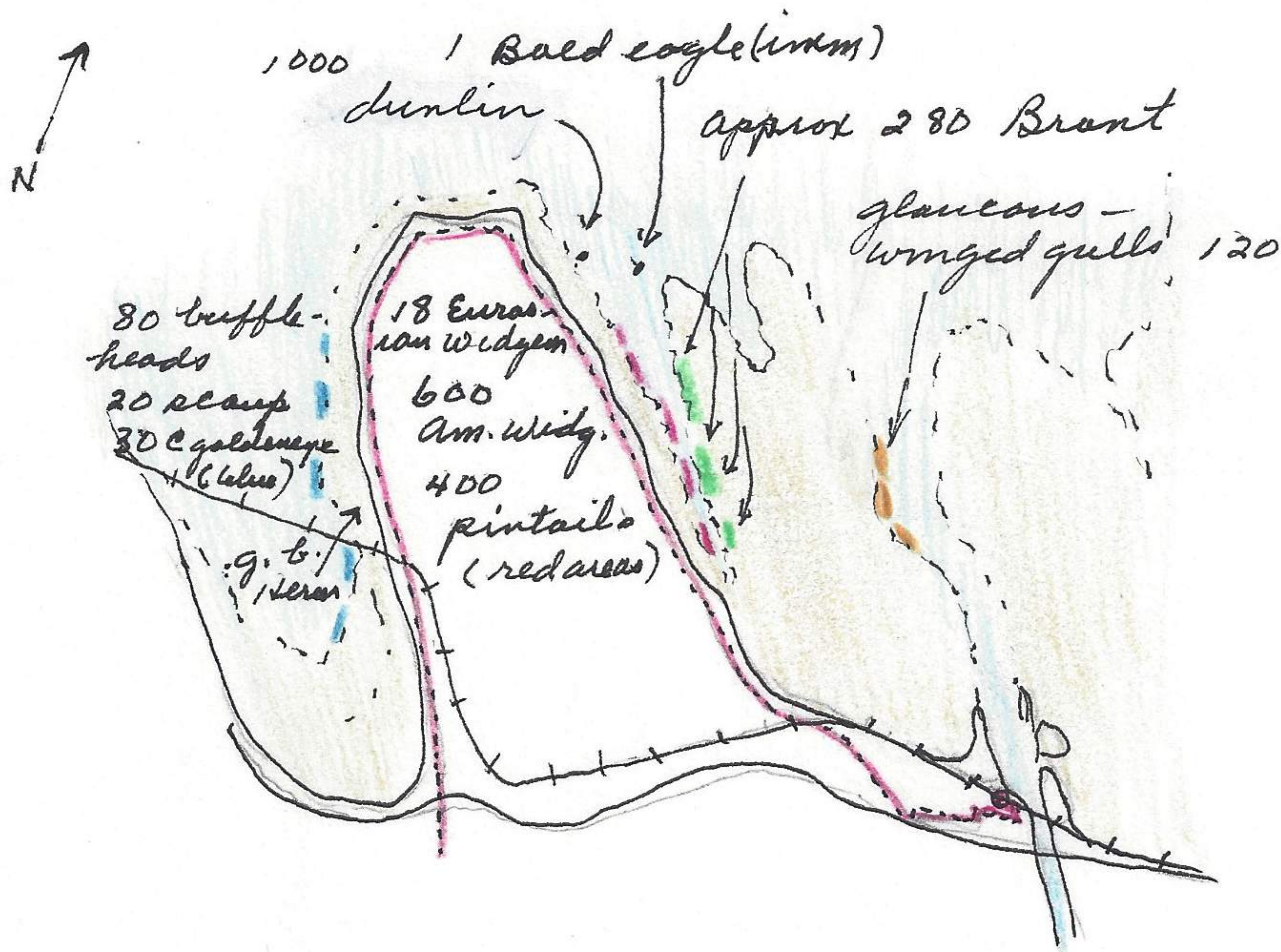


There were no other head gyrations or body movement given when 2 or more ♂'s are performing before a female. The female attempted to place herself in front of the ♂.

This afternoon drove to mouth Swinomish Channel (N end) on west side, thence W along S edge Padilla Bay, thence N on west side of Padilla Bay to N end peninsula (oil plants peninsula), thence S to highway 20.

There were many more birds in area but were generally dispersed.

Great blue heron evenly distributed around edge of peninsula every 1/4 mile or less.



Observed two instances of raptorial predation, one an immature bald eagle was perched on top a piling (for at least 20 minutes) when a group of approx. 1000 dunlin alighted on edge of mudflats some 150' from the eagle which left perch and flew straight toward flock making abrupt movements when near contact with dunlin. The second encounter was a pigeon hawk (merlin) which was flying down beach and darted down into a group of approx 200 dunlin. The pursuit was not aggressive but seemed only to harass the dunlin.

Feb. 15, 1986

Temp. 8:00 A.M. 32° F. Snowed last night to approx 1/2". No wind.