

A scirpus patch 100' wide and along a small water channel 1 foot wide was so dense that it allowed me to walk upon the top without falling through. One could easily crawl upon the surface in fact it was the only way in which one could cross the scirpus mass. A few green stems extended about 1 foot above the top of the dry mass. The green one being six feet high. The water channel led through the stand and allowed one to walk through along a foot wide avenue. Have wonder what the sandhill naturally nest among when burnt over areas are not present. Could it be upon the tops of these dense scirpus mass? I doubt it. Max collected a set of 5 marsh hawk eggs found 250' from where sandhill had been feeding. Hawk present and crying directly above the nest. Returned to camp. This evening Max saw a Poor-will. The Cotzebiana called frequently tonight but nothing like they did last night. Nor did we hear the sandhills call during the night or next morning. This afternoon Mr. Hutching collected a *Coluber taenatus taenatus* 16" long. This evening drove up to the Big Springs at the north end of Fish Spring mt. On way saw several Cotton-tail of all sizes (4 altogether). Raven at spring. Other favorable nesting area here but not as good as area S. E. of ranch. Found an interesting plant on a scale of the Ephedra but could not identify. Evidence of indian habitation at heads of all the springs. After casual inspection returned to ranch and retired. Neotoma active all night in attic (so they report.)

Indian Spring (continued.)

5/5/40

Up at sun up. no sandhill activity during nite. While preparing breakfast collected (15-5-40) several beetles <sup>and crustaceans</sup> at head of spring just north of the ranch. Watercress in spring. Water hard & slightly warm. Flock of Cowbird remained near ranch. 1 brewer blackbird<sup>(?)</sup> among them. This flock was frequently seen. Phoebe nest in barn. Barn swallow ~~or cliff~~ nests in barn. 3 skulls of the lodger taken near the ranch. No English Sparrows. Left the ranch at 9:05 A.M for return trip. at the south end of the marsh in freshwater ponds observed 1 canvas back, pair of bluewing teal, 4 unknown teal, 15 am. Coot and 4 redheads