

4 1/4 mi N and 2 1/2 mi E Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

Nov. 17, 1948

Made study of the house and runway patterns of *Neotoma floridana*. The area is between prairie & woodland. The deciduous element on the prairie is artificial; hedge of osage orange, and trees and shrubs have been planted by man. Runways leading to the house was investigated by removing successive layers. All material was carefully examined. The area where the study was made is a slope between the broad valley floor and a higher hilly country and is unsuitable for cultivation. The dominant tree *Maclura pomifera*, a shrubby tree look much like the other elements of the deciduous forests. These trees are closely arranged so that the ground beneath is completely protected from the sun. Consequently understory vegetation is almost lacking; even the shade-loving *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* grows sparsely here. The ground was completely covered with dry leaves of the osage-orange tree and there was approx. one fallen fruit of this dominant tree per four square yards of ground surface. Partly eaten fruits were found, especially where overhead protection was present. Three conspicuous runways free of vegetation led from the house, one to a pile of brush which was piled by man, and the other two in the direction of other nearby houses. Whether the vegetation had been intentionally removed from the runways or whether continual use accidentally removed it was not determined. No well-used trail connected one house with another but each runway extended in the direction of the house. The runways to the brush pile appeared to be in frequent use and apparently were confined to use in this accumulation of debris. Ramifying from the principal trails were lateral branches, apparently infrequently used. The leaves on the ground interfered with recognition of these lateral trails, but the numerous partially eaten osage orange fruits bore evidence of their use of these areas as feeding grounds. Fruits among *Symphoricarpos* were more commonly eaten than those in the ground without overhead protection. The distinctiveness of trails was proportional to the distance from the house.

~~The house~~ The house (Fig. 2A-B) was situated at the base of a tree and consisted of a pyramid-shaped structure of approx. 2 bushels of dried sticks and leaves of *Maclura* and other