

Citellus have decreased in last 4 years (*Citellus tridecemlineatus*) 10 years ago one would see 8 or 9 Coyotes in 4 sections of cattle grazing land in Swan Creek area. Now one rarely sees them and then only 1 during an inspection trip. These animals have disappeared in the last 4 years because of hunting by planes. The red fox, badger and skunk have increased in the last four years. The badger has increased to the point where it is a problem today.

The railroad grade was built in 1907 and abandoned in 1937. Wild wheat grass now covers. Gramma grass on hills in early days but now replaced with bluish grass and only 75% as productive as in old days when native grasses covered the land. Canyon valleys support a different grass than in old days. Buffalo, antelope, wolf, bobcats, and all the other kinds of animals of prairie land inhabited these slopes in early days. Continued S to Fort Pierre. It is quite evident that *Microtus ochrogaster* is limited to the east by the Missouri River. At Fort Pierre will test populations of mammals of the west side of the river, and also to see if *Microtus* crosses bridge to gain east side of river. At 2 mi. S and 1 mi. W Fort Pierre, set 160 traps and then camped N of town.

2 mi. S and 1 mi. W Fort Pierre, 1,200 ft., Stanley Co., South Dakota

July 25, 1950

From 160 traps set last evening caught 5 *Microtus ochrogaster*, 1 *Peromyscus maniculatus*. These traps were set in runways along a railroad right-of-way in successional grasses and weeds. These places are not always profitable because they are periodically burned or poisoned but they are about the only places that are not overgrazed. There are no grasshoppers, few mosquitoes, numerous ants, some following mammal runways. In one line of 80 traps of above 160 traps, and set in a continuous system of runways caught only one immature ♂. Mammals from above line are:

500725-1	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	137-53-18-15-17 gms	♂
500725-2	<i>Microtus ochrogaster hydeni</i>	120-32-19-12-18 gms	♂ testes 8 mm
500725-3	"	161-44-21-12-45 gms	♂ testes 12 mm
500725-4	"	159-39-20-11-44 gms	♂ testes 14 mm
500725-5	"	142-35-21-11-32 gms	♂ testes 9 mm
500725-6	"	160-36-20-12-50 gms	♀

Birds in area of trapline include mourning dove, house finch, eastern kingbird, flicker, red-headed woodpecker, night hawk.

Examined many fields that supported runways of *M. ochrogaster*