

Museum Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

June 27, 1951

Departed for Olathe Air Base at 7:00 A.M. Dr. Harrison B. Tordoff drove Jones and I to the base. Weather conditions did not allow flight to Denver, so at the advise of the Commander, went to Tinker Field in Oklahoma. Lt. Hayes flew us down in a TBM no. 134. Tied luggage in torpedo compartment under plane. Departed 11:00 A.M.; arrived Tinker Field 1:00 P.M. Observed one ecological association in general appearance of deciduous trees. At the Douglas Co area the tree ecotone is an advancing border to west with gradation from mature tree in solid stands to small trees in open exposures indicating an advancing of the trees upon the prairie land. These trees were also confined to erosional gullies and wetter situations. This condition continued south to half way point between Olathe and Oklahoma City where the deciduous element became more of a climax with abrupt lines and tree growth covering greater areas outside of river courses and wet to damp situations. In Kansas the country is marked into sections (sq mile) while in Oklahoma in the more extensive deciduous areas, the roads were few in number and were traversed the country in irregular routes according to the configuration of the land. I would say that in the Oklahoma area, the trees occupy approx. 50% or more of the land surface. Most of the rivers were out of bank along the flying route. Considerable evidence of former erosional levels of these meandering rivers that are now being used for agricultural purposes. These two areas, just mentioned should be analysed ecologically. I am of the opinion that the Oklahoma area is a near climax while the Lawrence area is more rightfully to be considered as prairie with recent invasion of trees, particularly outside of river valleys and damp drainage courses.

Tinker Field, Oklahoma (near Oklahoma City), Oklahoma

June 28, 1951

Scheduled to leave for Hill Field and then either to Great Falls, Montana or Tacoma, Washington. This base (Tinker Field) is headquarters for M.A.T.S. and we will use this facility from here to Fairbanks, Alaska. Departed 12:10 P.M. Enroute to Hill Field took the following photographs generally at 500 sec and from 3.5 F to 8. The general route included,