

Umiat, Alaska

June 27, 1952

Departed 7:45 A.M. for Bearpaw Creek trapping area $1\frac{1}{10}$ mi. E. and $1\frac{1}{10}$ mi. N. Umiat, $152^{\circ}04'50''$, $69^{\circ}23'30''$, 550 ft. From trapline of 43 in lowlands and 50 on open side hill caught 28 microtus oeconomus, 1 Sorex tundrensis and 1 Lemmus. All from trail sets in lowland. Hillside did not produce except 3 sprung traps. Redpoll nest of 3 eggs in willow 350 mm from ground. Leaves of this willow not out yet. The hillside N of Umiat is a symphony of songs of the white-crowned sparrow, willow warbler, grey-cheeked thrush and others. This would be an excellent area for bird study. Saw one red fox just under the upper ledge of bluffs $\frac{3}{4}$ block west of the Bearpaw Creek oil well. This fox has den in rocks to north across canyon. 12 Citellus undulates on ridge, generally active on top but retreating to side hill below among alder, willow and Betula. This south exposure is just opposite to north exposures in, say, Utah at high elevations where growth is on north side of ridge and bare on the south side of ridges. Examined 1 nest of redpoll 2 feet high in bare (leafless) willow with 6 young in feathers - probably 3 days old. This evening ascended mt. Umiat at 6:00 P.M. and returned 10:00 P.M. At mouth of Bearpaw Canyon saw 3 American Robins, one singing as if on territory. At 6:20 P.M. shot color movie of sandhill crane (3 feet and in error). This bird has been seen in general area on three different occasions. Called continuously, flew 100 yards and then alighted again. Examined nest of tree sparrow 520627-30 placed on ground in protection of grass and at base of willow. The eggs held embryos. Placed flush with ground on slightly elevated ground on hillsides of Ledum, Vaccinium, small Alnus and mosses and lichens.

Cup 36 mm, height of nest 63 mm, new yellow grass stems alternating with feathers of ptarmigan

feathers 11 mm

new dry yellow grass stems

sphagnum and old grass stems and other dry plants.

