JOURNAL 1958

JAMES W. BEE

Laurence, Douglas Co., Kansas

Feb. 19, 1958

Received a letter from Clayton E. Ray dated Feb. 19, 1958 from Mus. Comp. Zool., Cambridge 38, Mass. He writes:

I have just read an article on West Indian mammals extracted from the newspaper, El Caribe, of Nov. 23, 1957, in which your name appears. Since I am rather deeply involved in West Indian mammals myself I would be very interested in learning about your work (what groups you are working with, where you have collected, etc.).

I have in mind the study of the U.S.N.M. collections from Haiti (confining myself mainly to rodents and insectivores) as a Ph.D. problem. I am just completing a study of the dentition in the Heptaxodontinae. I hope to spend about three months collecting in Hispaniola this coming summer.

Laurence, Douglas Co., Kansas

Feb. 28, 1958

On approx. this date I gave a lecture to Kiwanis Club of Laurence. The following news item in Laurence Daily Journal-World: James Bee is lecturer at meeting of Kiwanis. James W. Bee of the museum of Natural History at Kansas Univ gave an illustrated lecture about a bealogical survey of St. Thomas Island in the Virgin Islands at the Kiwanis meeting Thursday.

The biological survey of the island was made in 1957. The island will eventually be made into a national park for the United States.

The island lies east of Puerto Rico and once was inhabited by white people. Some attempt is being made, Bee said, to gain knowledge of the former civilization there before the park is opened to the public.

Douglas Co., Lawrence, Kansas

March 31, 1958

Received a letter from Francis Harper from 115 Ridgeway Street, Mount Holly, N.J. dated march 31, 1958: ... It is interesting to note how many of the same species occur in Kewatin; also how observations on Govia pacifica pacifica calling on the

wing, and on the Pigeon Hawk harassing Ravens, substant-
iate what I noticed in Keewatin. 'Gutteral' (p. 173) and
"logopus" (p. 182) seems to have slipped by in the proof-
reading.

581109-2

CE TEL. 4-9851

37 LINDEN TERRACE

OTTAWA 1, ONT.

CANADA

9 Nov. 1958

Dr. J. W. Bee,
C/o Department of Zoology,
University of Kansas,
LAWRENCE,
Kan., U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Bee:

I have recently been comparing some of our observations on Brown Lemming on Prince of Wales Island with your interesting findings in Alaska (Bee & Hall 1954).

It appears to me that, if the legend under Fig. 26 is correct, the spring and summer lines delimiting the frequency distribution in that figure must have been confused. I should be much obliged if you would let me know if that is correct.

I also assume that the 23 ♂♂ ♀♀ mentioned in a under Fig. 30 are the same as those in a under Fig. 29, and that the date in Fig. 30 should be 15 to 19 rather than 15 to 16. There also appears to have been confusion in dates given in b of Figs. 29, 30, if, as I assume, the 12 ♂♂ ♀♀ referred to are the same.

I hope that checking up on these old records will not put you to too much trouble.

Faithfully yours,

T. H. Manning

T. H. Manning

581114-3

Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

Nov 14, 1958

The following is a letter written to Dr. T.H. Manning of 37 Linden Terrace, Ottawa 1, Ontario in response to a letter he sent Nov. 9, 1958. Dear Dr. Manning: I am grateful to you in bring to my attention several discrepancies in the section of the brown lemming. (Mammals of Northern Alaska). Figure 26 was recognized as an error and as you have correctly stated, the summer and spring curves should be transposed. The information in Figure 29 is corrected as printed. In Figure 30, however, the date in a. (June 15-16) should read, June 15-19 and in b. (September 4-8) should read September 4. although I have, from Point Barrow, records of pregnant females up to and including September 11, I chose for statistical reference only those trapped on a single day, September 4.

I would be interested in a comparison of the Prince of Wales Island population and those from Point Barrow in northern Alaska and am asking to be remembered when your research is completed and published. If there is other information or data now at the University of Kansas that might be useful I would be glad to check our specimens or records and relay the information to you.

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

Nov. 15, 1958

Rana pipiens, ♀, 85 mm total length and 85 gms wt was collected from edge of Kansas River. The frog was in shallow pool on sand and mud flats near edge of main river and some 80 feet out upon the sand bar. An egg mass 28 X 12 mm was attached to the left side above and behind front leg. Thamnophis (red in pattern) also noted along side of river among trees. It was on dead leaves among cottonwood and willows lining river edge. Preserved for histological purpose. No. 571115-1.

Univ. Kansas, Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

Nov. 26, 1958

A copperhead, Ancistrodon contortrix mokasen was killed this date. Testes preserved in Bouin's fixative. Snake from

Nat. Hist. Res. This specimen, 571126-1, ♂, measured:
508 mm total length; 73 mm tail; 40 gms wt.
Skull and tail placed in 10% formalin. Made four blood smears. When etherized the snake forced nastrils and eyes into the side of its body.

Topeka, Kansas

Nov. 26, 1958

An Elaphe o. obsoletus, ♂, was collected from a garden in Topeka by a student at K.U., Bill Clark. This snake measured: 349 mm total length; 59 mm tail; 9.2 gms wt. Skull placed in formalin and 3 blood smears made.

Univ. Kansas, Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

Nov. 26, 1958

The delivery man for the American Express reports to me the following: When Lone Star Lake was being made (approx. Aug. 7, 1934) 43 copperheads were taken from top of dam. At this time the dam was about 1/2 filled and overflow about 100 feet wide. The brush and trees had been cut down in the valley but they were not cleared. A heavy rain filled the reservoir to dam heighth and the brush was lodged on the dam, carrying the snakes with the brush. many copperheads no doubt were carried over the overflow section of the dam. There were no rattlesnakes on the dam but they had been reported from the Lone Star area.

Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

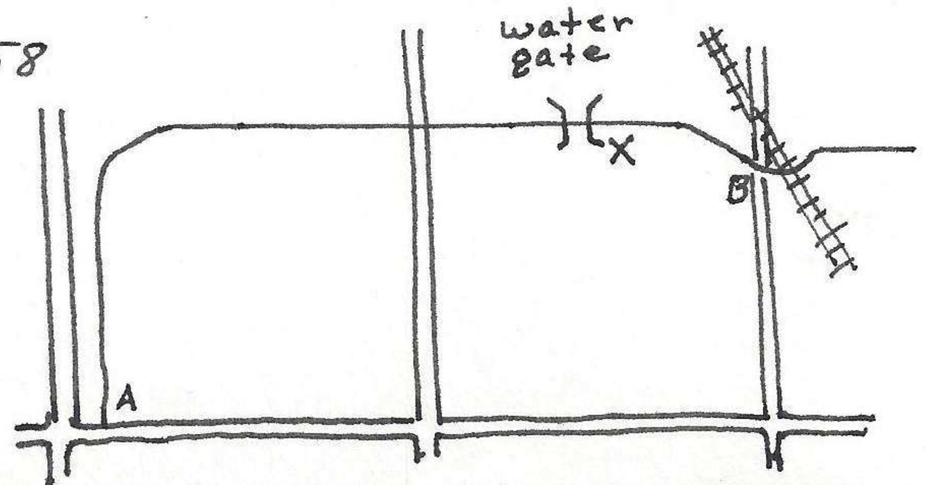
Nov. 28, 1958

Started to snow at about 2:00 P.M yesterday (Nov. 27) and continued until early this morning. Most of the snow came early last night. Measurement of snow (undisturbed) on Univ. Kansas Campus (9:00 A.M) was 145 mm or 5 3/4 inches

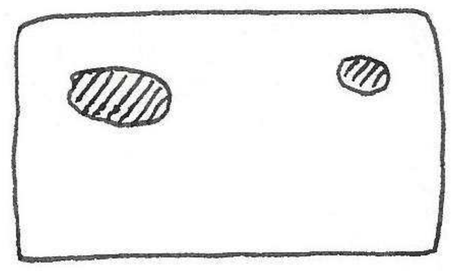
Haskell Bottoms, south of Lawrence (approx. 3 miles from P.O.)
Douglas County, Kansas

December 25, 1958

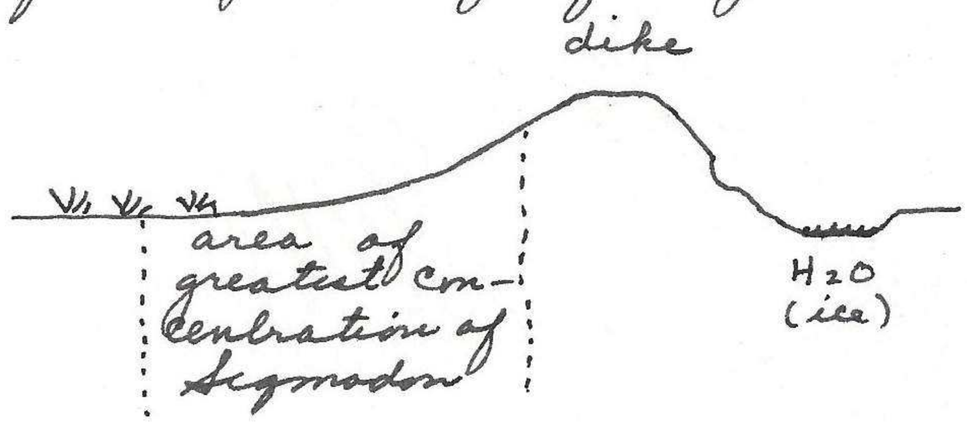
James R, Annette C and Mary P. made Christmas census in Haskell Bottoms and adjoining area. At spot marked X

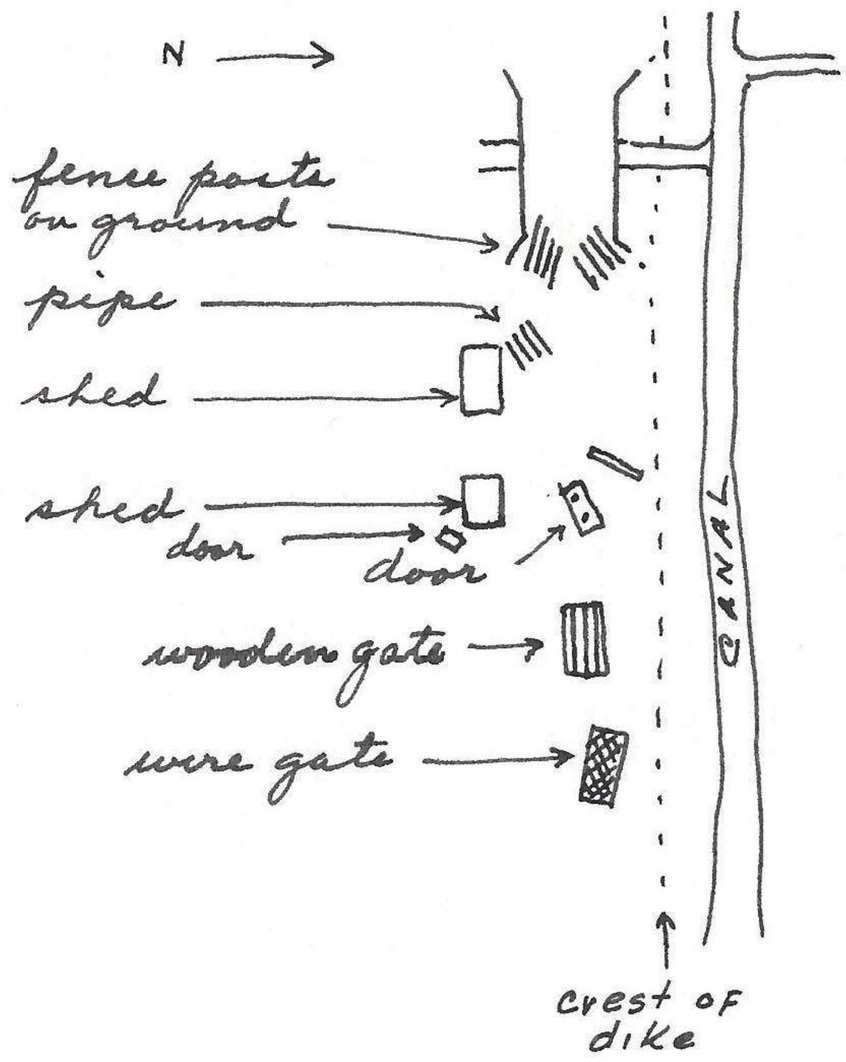


turned over a door (3'x5' wooden) which was lying on the ground and found approximately 28 Sigmodon hispidus. They were confined to two nests.



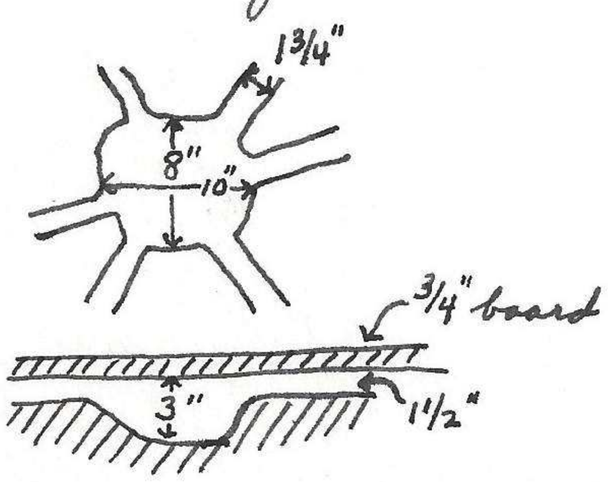
As the door was lifted the Sigmodon left in all directions and took refuge under other boards or mat grass or escaped into holes in the ground. At one moment the ground and fleeing mammals reminded me of the tundra in northern Alaska when the lemming population is high. Twelve other Sigmodon were noted in the immediate area under and old wooden gate [redacted] on the ground, under fence posts lying on ground, in pipe, under an old wooden gate of wire on ground and sealed in with weeds and grasses. The area of Sigmodon concentration consisted of approx 600 sq. feet or approx. 42 x 15 feet.

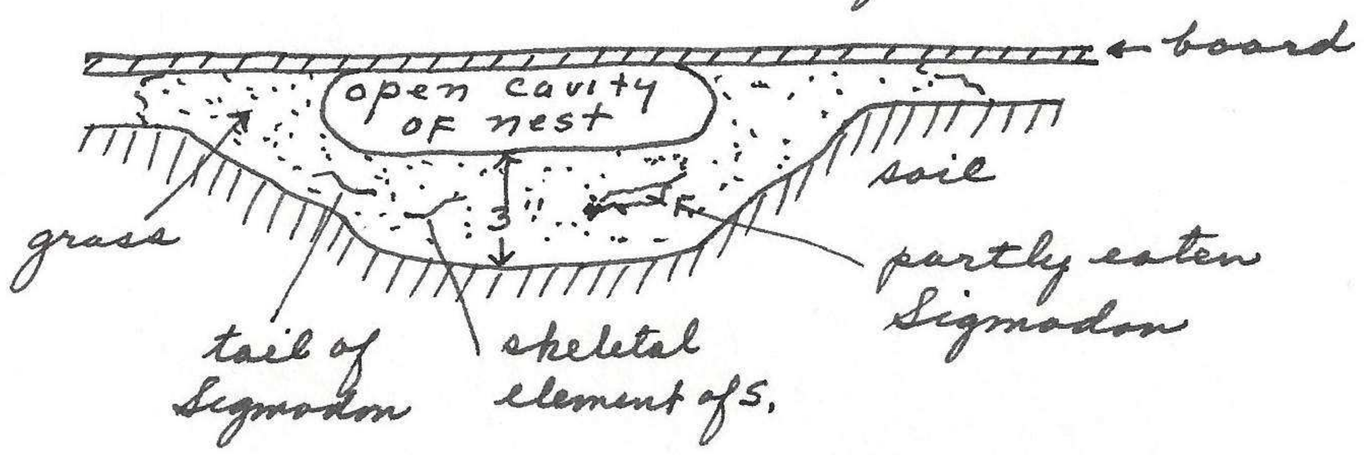




The raised area under the shed was not used by Sigmodon but for all tense and purposes should have been used for retreating. The Sigmodon were using established trails although when confused they would escape in all directions regardless of trails. The fields of grasses and weeds south of the dike beyond the sheds were saturated and sealed with frozen water and soils. The crest of the dike lacked good overhead protection.

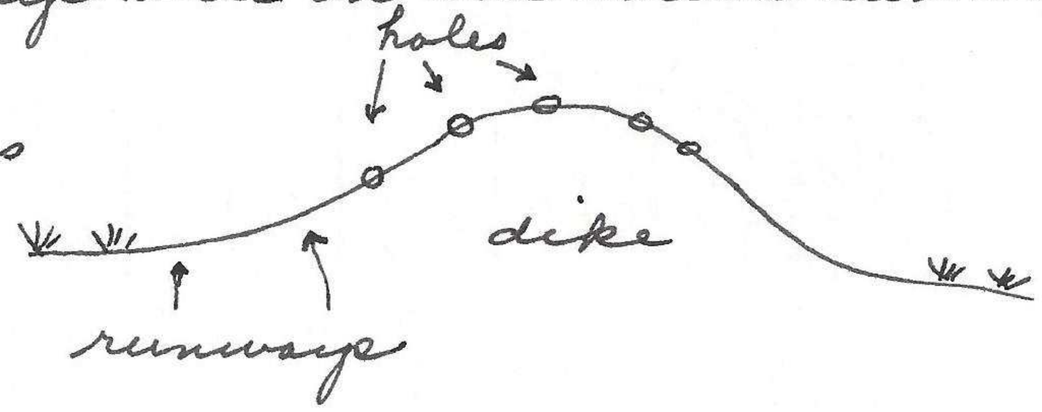
The largest nest under the door measured as follows:





The measurements are of nest cavity of dirt cavity and not the open nest cavity. The layers of stratified grasses and debris were frozen at the lower layers. The second nest (smaller one) under the wooden door was 1/2 half the size of the one featured above and was similarly constructed. It was separated from the larger nest by 4 feet. The soil beneath the door was bare. During excessively cold temperatures these nests are filled with Sigmodon, on occasions 3 and 4 mice deep. By readjusting positions, some of the mice are able to remain warm from the insulating influence of the other mice. This factor of sociability may account for the ability of this species to have adapted to the rigors and winter conditions and range extension into Kansas. At the same time this tendency to aggregate may be a factor in the spread of disease and decline in numbers. It is estimated that there were 40 Sigmodon in the area of 15 x 42 feet.

Along the dike (full extent A to B.) there were approx. 30 areas of Sigmodon activity with well established trail systems and aggregates of from 4 to 8 mice at each place. Most of the nests and runways were on the south and west facing slopes of the dike.



Tracks of cats, dogs, coyotes in area at area of nesting Sigmodon. The marsh hawk (2), red-tail (5) and short-eared owl (1) in area. There were remarkably few small birds in area except tree sparrows.

Haskell Bottoms, approx 3 mi. S Lawrence (P.O), Douglas County, Kansas

December 26, 1958

Checked birds in area and found the tree sparrow (18) the only small bird in area, and these were along the dike among weeds. This disparity of bird life was also noted yesterday. Time of day makes a difference in numbers active but in this case I believe that the lack of different kinds of birds is real. At other times of the year this area is alive with not only different species but many individuals of each species.