

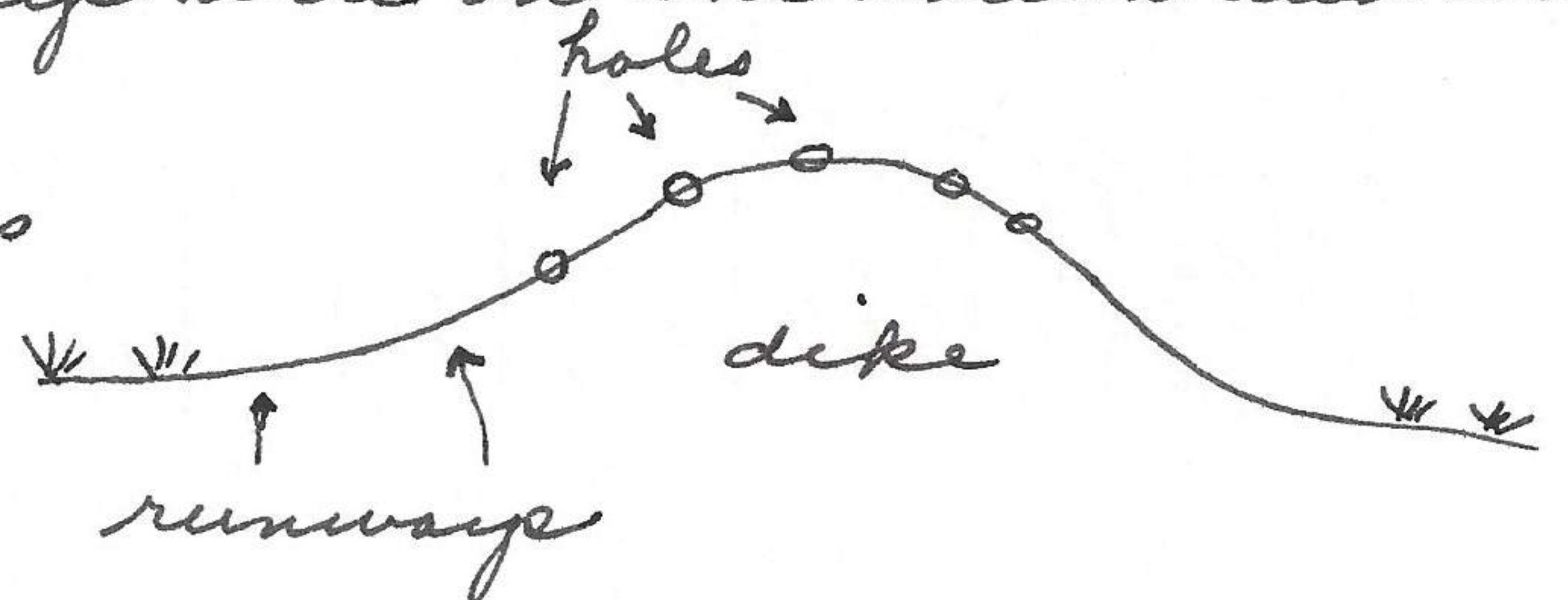
The measurements <sup>are</sup> of nest cavity of dirt cavity and not the open nest cavity. The layers of stratified grasses and debris were frozen at the lower layers. The second nest (smaller one) under the wooden door was  $1/2$  half the size of the one featured above and was similarly constructed. 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 rigorous 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  $15 \times 42$  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 <sup>(2)</sup>, red-tail <sup>(5)</sup> and short-eared owl <sup>(1)</sup>

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.