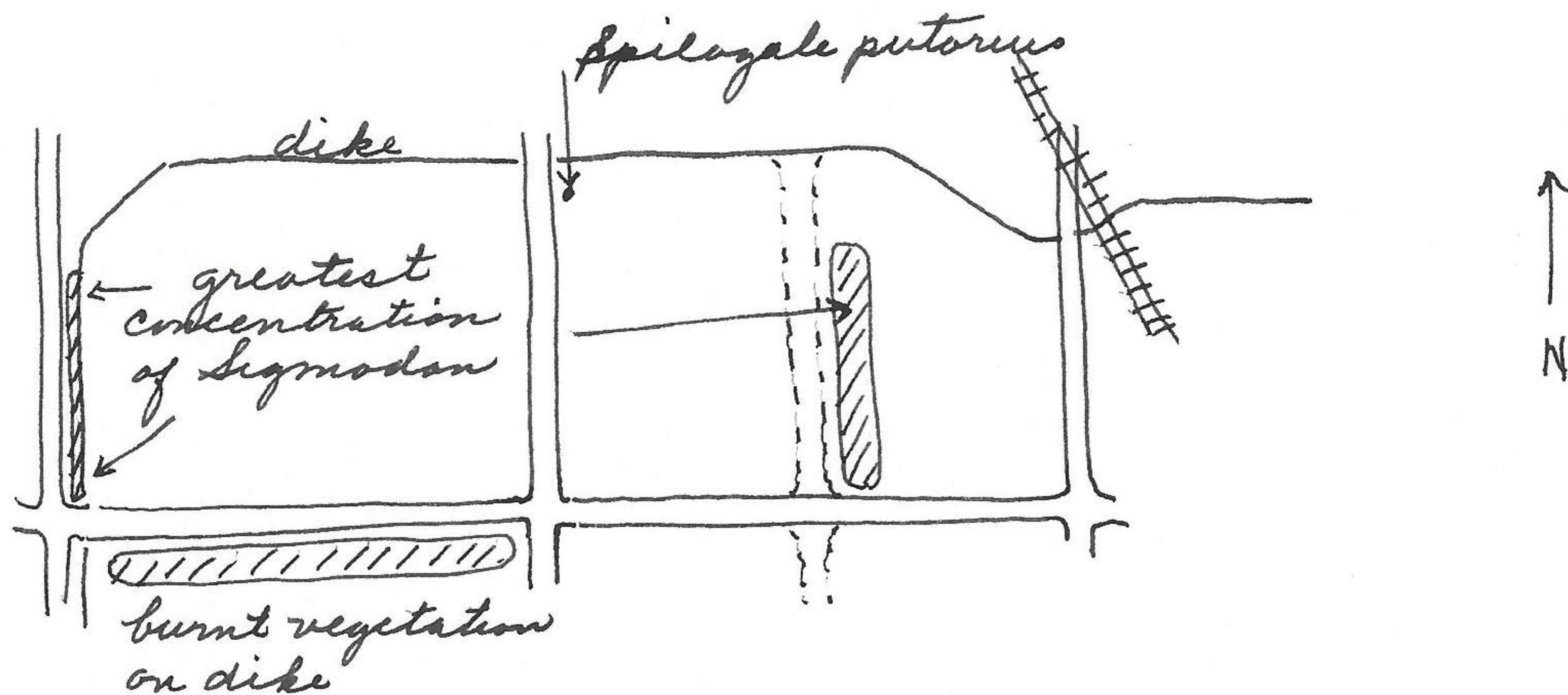


Haskell Bottoms, Lawrence, Kansas

March 8, 1959

Annette and I checked *Sigmodon* population.

There were no *Sigmodon* in area checked Dec. 25, 1958. Thirteen *Peromyscus maniculatus* in one nest of plant fibers under a door (SE of east shed) on ground. *Peromyscus* were never noted in this area in the period of high concentration of *Sigmodon* and it is assumed that they entered after the departure of the *Sigmodon*. The area (referring to the area of 42×15 of Dec. 25, 1958) had changed considerably since we visited it February 14. The grasses and weeds had been blown over and compressed as a result of winds and snow and the plant fibers were softened by the rains. Soils were damp and the nearly standing water was considerably higher. Both here and on the entire length of the dike around Haskell Bottoms, the overhead protection of winter stand of vegetation was 80% or more reduced from the early winter condition. The optimum areas were on the west exposure of the west dike where drifted debris from the last flood of last year had deposited a $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot mat of dried stems of plants. The *Sigmodon* were in the matted natural aquatic grasses at base of dike and would retreat up to holes under matted grasses and debris on dike. In other areas of the dike where we found *Sigmodon* earlier under winter conditions of high grass protection, we did not find them there today, indicating that they remained only in those areas affording dry nesting areas and adequate overhead protection. The main fields of the 'bottoms' were inundated or supersaturated and did not, except for a