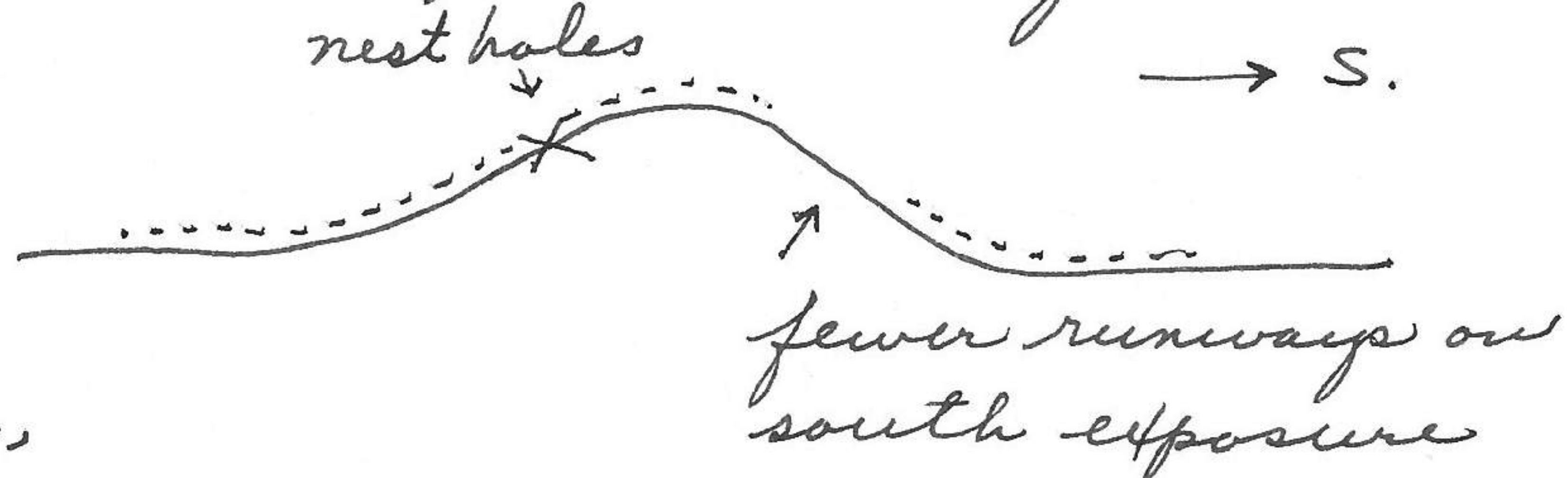
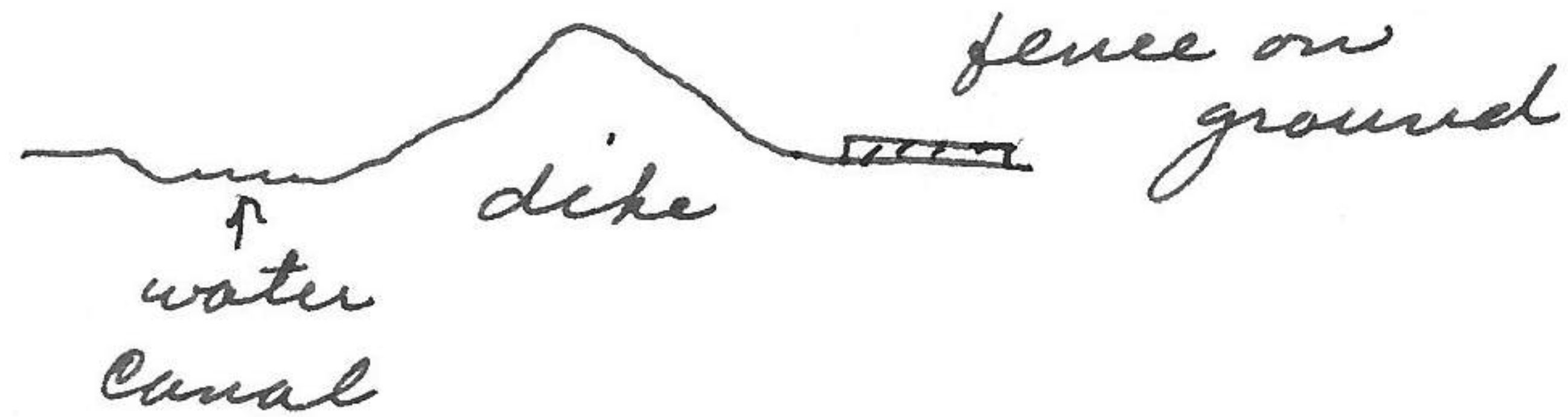


instances support mammals. It is believed that the *Sigmodon* area of field along utility line (census area) were driven to the higher dikes and that in the winter months the decrease in numbers was a result of natural predation and that the final depopulation of the area was a result of decrease of overhead protection and wet habitat and increase predation. There was considerably more digging activity by skunks, coyotes and other soil disturbances. One *Spilogale* was under an old fence gate, ^(on lowland adjacent dike) in pursuit of a *Peromyscus maniculatus*. The skunk gained top of dike and continued west along the crest of the dike.

There were more rabbits (cottontails) on dike today as a result of being driven by rising water in fields of 'bottoms' now becoming nearly all supersaturated or covered with water. No tree sparrows which formerly were most conspicuous bird along the dike in winter months. Winter hawks not in area today. 2 marsh hawks in field. Numerous meadowlarks singing in SW section of area examined. On a dike that had been burned of its grasses (high) the *Microtus ochrogaster* runways and nesting holes were plainly visible. nest holes more commonly seen on N exposure near top of dike.



Collected one *Sigmodon*.

590308-1. Flock of approx.

3,000 red-winged blackbirds in area, particularly in SW corner of area of bottoms examined today.

Haskell Bottoms, Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas
March 9, 1959

Made linear transect census of runways across Haskell Bottoms from west to east (Louisiana St to Haskell St), following precisely the alignment of the south poles of the powerline. Counted all trails of *Sigmodon* or *Microtus ochrogaster* which were being used. Old trails, foraging trails or only slightly used trails were ^{not} counted.