

Wakarusa River, Shawnee and Douglas Co., Kansas

March 10, 1962

Son James Robert and I made 2 day canoe trip on Wakarusa River from bridge $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi. n of Richland in Shawnee Co., to Louisiana Street Bridge south of Lawrence in Douglas Co. The following items of equipment were taken: water-proof matches (about 35 were used), small flash-light, extra batteries, wrist watch, ink pens (Lindy, Legal Copy, 474 m) notebook, tent (conical), 30 feet rope, axe, saw, thermometer, wire to fasten stove to canoe, pliers, maps, ground cloth, sleeping bags, measurer, scales, dissecting equip, pocket knife, warm cloths for rain and snow, cone, paddles, stove, 4 lengths of pipe, water, food, gun, shells, binoculars, life preserver, bird hook, permits, cotton gloves. The objective of trip was to determine any shift in winter population of birds (see notes Feb. 4, 1962). Left Lawrence 6:10 A.M. and arrived Richland bridge 6:50 A.M. Annette returned car to Lawrence. Departed by canoe 7:30 A.M. Raining gently, partial sleet, sky overcast and temp. about 36° F. It was planned to make a complete census of all birds and mammals but control of canoe through obstacles of river did not allow consistent note taking. For a complete census it takes one man at canoe and one man on note taking. I did take a full count of the great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, snow geese, ducks, beaver, muskrats. All other forms were recorded by summary. Time correlated with bridges and other major land marks. The first day from Richland to Clinton Camp of $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles took 9 hrs and 5 minutes or $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour. This speed is considered average for cruising these creeks in low water and means that only enough paddling is employed to keep canoe on course and to cross slow water. The second day we covered $17\frac{8}{10}$ miles in 6 hrs and 45 min or approx 3 miles per hour and involved both James & I paddling together most of the time. I would consider that 2 miles per hour for long distances is a good speed for observation and canoeing although a slower speed is good for short distances and when many birds are to be checked. In winter there is a limited kind and number ^{of birds}. The weather for the two days was (10th) rain, sleet, cold in early morning, cloudy and cold all day except evening when sky partly cleared but followed by thunder cumulus clouds,