

Wakarusa River from U.S. Highway 75 to Richland, Shawnee Co., Kansas.

March 18, 1962

Left Lawrence at 7:25 A.M. at 8:43 at 1 mi E Clinton noted 50 snow geese flying north. One striped skunk road kill. Red-winged blackbirds in large flocks at about 1 flock per mile along the route. No hawk until 1 mi east of Richland and from here to 2 mi. W Richland noted 2 marsh hawks and 3 redtail hawk. No hawks noted beyond to highway 75 S of Topeka. A shrike was clocked at 30 miles per hour. A pigeon at 40 miles per hour. Few horned larks on uplands and the usual small flocks of juncos, tree sparrow, cardinals in definite groups. Early in the morning at near daybreak (last week) there were small sparrows along side of road. Meadow lark common. A few ducks in ponds. Arrived highway 59 at 8:25 where Wakarusa crosses. Departed ^{in canoe} at 8:30 A.M. Rained a few minutes at 7:30 A.M. which accompanied an abrupt front but after it passed they day was cloudy and windy all day. In slow water at 8:46 noted an American Coast. This trip of over 15 miles will require almost constant paddling, portaging and leading canoe down rapids so will not make a complete census as I had planned. Census of the great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, fox squirrel woodducks and beaver will be complete. The squirrel count is not as complete because of lack of critical observation. 9:25 fox squirrel. 9:30 left the valley side. Usual winter birds included isolated groups of juncos, cardinals, chickadees, titmouse & nuthatches. These groups are generally isolated with intervening area without birds. Cardinals now generally distributed all along the route. At 9:35 temp under clouded skies 56°F, water 2 inches below surface of water 40°F, 2 fox squirrels, 1 killdeer overhead. 9:43 limestone ledge of stratified layer dislodged from cliffs on N side, black at edge of water. 3 crows in river bed. 10:00 fox squirrel, 10:05 fox squirrel. 10:12 first great horned owl. 10:15 G.H. owl, 1 fox squirrel. 10:28 1 fox squirrel, 2 fox squirrels together. 10:45 great horned owl, redbellied tailed thrush (could be hermit) in pile of driftwood, also wren. The trees which overhang the river (those injured from high water abrasion, are dropping juices into the water. A few frogs are on bank & edge of river and are jumping into water (Rana pipiens and a small one probably Acris crepitans). At this time they are about 1 per every block or more. 10:47 along valley side to S. Two black capped chickadees calling one high and one lower in tone.