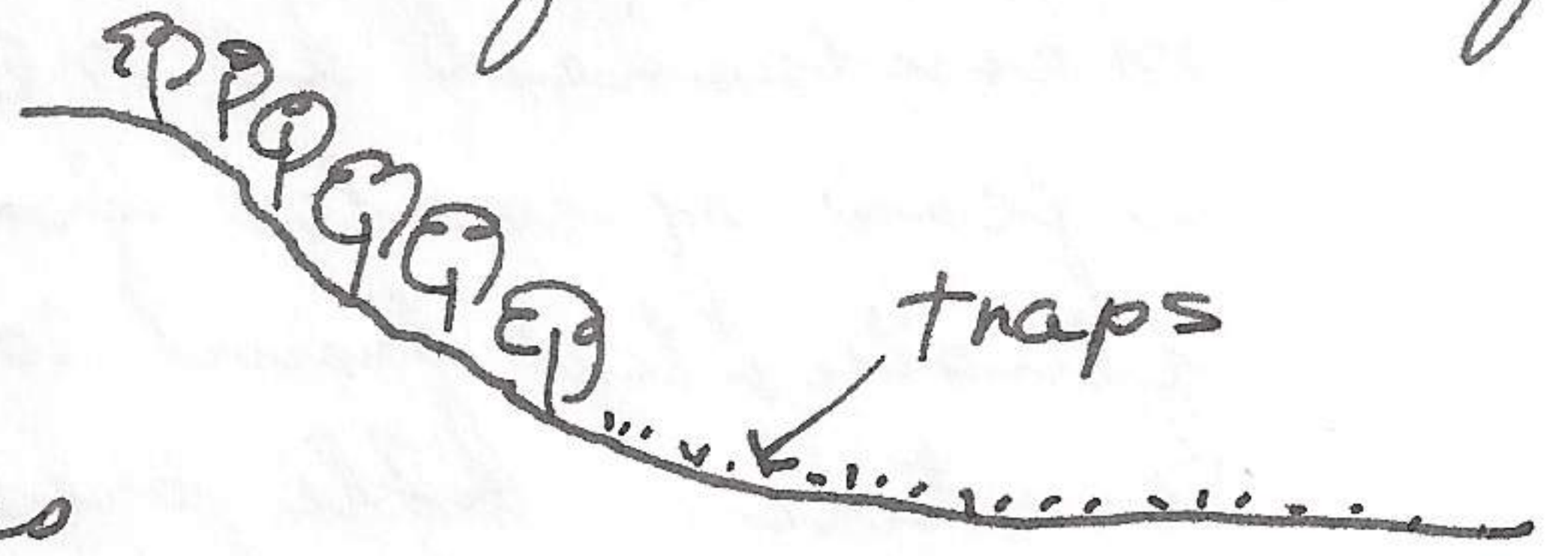


by the extensive utilization during the winter, <sup>(Trap 1-24)</sup> Green (bright and faded) pellets were deposited on trails and in isolated areas among the sedges. There is more concentration of community use of the sedge marshes (in this case more properly referred to as a bog) than is the case of *Microtus ochrogaster*. Some areas had the poorly defined runway completely carpeted with disintegrated fecal pellets. These marsh or sedge areas are more or less joined by grasses and underbrush. Penetration is difficult. Soils in marsh area solid ice and difficult to penetrate with wire stake. Under ordinary circumstances, such places are not inviting to either *Synaptornis* or *Microtus ochrogaster* because of overhead tree protection. The only marsh supporting water is the first marsh area nearest the Wakarusa River! No evidence of springs on slope of hill.

(traps 59-85)

The second area, is open cultivated field bordering the deciduous slope. This area is like previous except without trees and on more of a slope. This area seems



to have been more extensively used than at present. 3 nest had been elevated by fox or some other carnivore.

Area 3, <sup>(traps 86-100)</sup> is at mouth of drainage canyon on flat part of canyon. Vegetation west of fence overgrazed. Area in canyon & to east only moderately grazed. Grasses dense, matted and continuous. Traps set up this canyon floor some 150 feet from the mouth. It judged this area to support *M. ochro* but in setting traps (6:00 P.M. at this point) caught one *Synaptornis cooperi* in <sup>(*m. ochro*)</sup> meadow, trail thru grass. It measured:

630222-2 *Synaptornis cooperi*. 128-23-18.5-10-34gms.

This canyon continued south to uplands with the same kind of grass community (*Audropogon*). It will be interesting to see if *Synaptornis* extends up to upland via this canyon. Elsewhere the steep deciduous slopes intervene between the lowland valley contact and the uplands.

If the *Synaptornis* prefers wet marshes it will more likely be found at base of slope in areas that have not be disturbed by man by cultivation or especially by periodic burning of fields.

