

April 11, 1963

checked trap-line. marsh hawk flying over area of creek to n. 2 cottontails noted on trapline. The area where traps were placed was, in my judgement, the most permanent and stable area. It was on the brink of the uplands and was too rocky (one granite boulder per 30 feet or so) and on slope unsuitable for cultivating. The native grasses were of good growth and favorable niches (although grasses continuous) about every 20 feet which was interval of setting. The favorable niches were probably produced by microtine activity (on cultivated field above, these home bases of holes and concentrated trail activity were 60 feet apart (15-100). A small bush, probably *Symphoricarpos*, stabilized these niches. For the results which I attained, I was surprised that there were not more microtines. As a matter of fact, there were practically no mammals here, except those associated with draws. At one time this area supported a high concentration of runways and some not very old, probably used by a high population of *Spermophilus* last fall before the winter kill. This ~~is~~ was the kind of area where I postulated presence of *Synaptomys*. Those captured were from a similar situation. Returned to car at 9:00 A.M. Made census on return to n end of proposed dam (Clinton Reservoir). Started n for 1 3/10 miles. Left at mileage 29.8. 29.9 2 killdeer; 30:0 2 meadowlarks, 3 redwings, 2 robins; 30.2 (crossroads, cont. to n); 30.3 2 redwings, 1 meadowlark, 1 quail; 30.6 D.B. Heron feeding at pond to W. Can hear many meadowlarks & blackbirds (redwings) singing beyond 100 feet census strip (either side of road); 30.8 2 jays, 4 juncos; 30.9 Crossing Dry Creek; 31.0 1 red wing, 1 meadowlark; 31.3 1 meadowlark; 31.6 2 robins, 1 mourning dove, 1 cardinal, small birds. 31.7 now at road to east. 1 redtail hawk circling over n E field, 2 jays, 1 meadowlark; 32.3 4 juncos, 32.7 bridge across Deer Creek, 1 cardinal, several small sparrows. 33.0 1 meadowlark, 1 redwing blackbird, 33.2 2 redwing blackbirds, 33.3 1 phoebe near bridge; 33.5 2 meadowlarks; 33.6 2 meadowlarks; 33.7 rd to S (will follow); 33.8 2 cardinals and some snacc sparrows; 33.8 2 cardinals; 34.0 2 meadowlarks, 34.3 1 cardinal, 1 redwing, 1 crow calling to E; 34.6 Wakarusa Bridge; 35.3 passing by road which turn S to Clinton (will continue E); 35.5 2 meadowlarks, 1 junco; 35.7 bridge across Wakarusa, 3 cardinals and several small birds; 36.2 2 crows; 36.4 1 horned lark, 1 meadowlark; 36.8 Acus calling from roadside pond, 1 redwing blackbird; 37.6 1 redwing and n end proposed Clinton Dam.