

Kaw River (Lawrence to Eudora), Douglas Co., Kansas

Feb. 2, 1964

Lon James and I made canoe trip on the Kaw River. Left 12:00 noon, went from the NE to E, temp 48°F air, temp. water 2 inches below surface of water 40°F. 12:55 passing major creek from south just beyond utility lines crossing river. Two kingfishers left overhanging branches and flew about 200 feet down river, when approached they flew out over river and returned up river. 1:10 7 adult and two immature gulls rested on island sandbar on N side of river. The wing tips had considerable black as in the Franklin Gull. As they left, at about 150 feet, they flew first down river and then turned and flew up river overhead at which point a shot was fired at them. They continued to ^{circle and} gain elevation to the north just beyond the river. After gaining about 800 feet they flew west. measured a flatheaded catfish which was at side of river as 31 inches total length. The fish was in good condition. 1:40 Channel to right and nearing first bend. approx 200 horned larks and some lepland juncos? on extensive sand bar to north just passed. These birds are always found on these sands and have a flight pattern from these sands to field to the south + east. 1:50 Mud Creek from N. At island in middle of river on stretch beyond the bend, examined a runway of a mole. As far as I now remember, this island has been separated from the land on either side. 3:00 Bend curve, now E to next bend. Up to now have seen 12 small remnants of ice along edge of river in protected places. 3:05 now on stretch to Eudora. 1 redtail perching on bell to N. Eudora bridge 4:00. Show ice more numerous the farther down the river one goes. Mouth of Wakarusa River 4:15. At mouth of River the water was flowing up river from the Kaw. Water open for about 200 feet, then old winter ice on east side and center to about 1/10 mile. Beyond the river was sealed with ice and canoe had to be pushed up river on ice strong enough to hold ones weight. Beaver bank holes (8) on west side of river at mouth. noted several large winter kill fish in water or ice near mouth including carp, long-nosed gar, drum and several kinds of small minnows. Arrived at bridge over Wakarusa River N of Eudora 5:00 P.M. Heavy head on wind the entire trip and annoying for navigation.

