

Kaw River (Leecompton Bridge to Lawrence Bridge) Douglas
and Jefferson Counties, Kansas

March 1, 1964

Lon James and I made canoe trip on Kaw River. Left Leecompton Bridge 10:45 A.M. Day clear, slight breeze from SW, air temp. in shade 41°F, water temp 2 inches below surface in shade 40°F. Atmospheric conditions perfect for canoeing and comfort. This in contrast to yesterday when ^{cool} winds blew at 40 miles per hour. It frequently happens that the day following a day of high winds which subside during the night is calm and favorable for canoeing. These days are infrequent. Then the day following the calm day is again windy and undesirable for canoeing as far as wind is concerned. 40% to 60% of river channel at Leecompton is exposed sandbars, leaving definite channels of flowing water. This condition occurs in late fall and winter. Water relatively clear and can see bottom at 1 1/2 feet. The river is quiet except for birds singing in cottonwoods along bank and in fields beyond. There is a noticeable increase in vocal activity. In trees on N side just beyond bridge for 3/10 mile down stream can hear chickadees, 2 cardinals, 4 crows, several meadowlarks, 1 flicker, and 1 song sparrow. I will not keep a complete record of birds this trip. 10:57 turtle on sand bar, submerged, about 10 feet from edge.

It was in 5 inches of water and when disturbed moved down stream to



turtle

edge of submerged sandbar and disappeared in deeper water. The turtle moved slowly. This turtle was approx 9 inches wide and look like *Trionyx muticus*, smooth soft shelled turtle. 2 killdeer on sand beyond. 11:00 10 crows chasing a redtail above cottonwood trees to N. The hawk flew straight away and with unusual speed for about 40 mile with crows in close pursuit. It alighted in a tree by another redtail which also ended the chase by the crows. The second redtail then left the tree and flew west along the cottonwood trees in the same course as taken by the redtail being chased. The crows, which the redtail (2nd one) flew by, did not molest the hawk. The redtails called several times. 12:07 18 mallards left middle of river and flew down stream, then, after gaining elevation flew up stream. 11:16 excellent beaver house on N side river.