

Old stabilized sand bars grown to small cottonwood trees are favorite places for beaver. Arrived Lawrence bridge at 4:00 P.M.

8/10 mi. W and 7/10 mi. N Clinton, Douglas Co., Kansas
March 7, 1964

While driving along road through wooded section along Wakarusa River noted a striped skunk, Mephitis mephitis ovis feeding along side of road that passed through the deciduous forest. There were short grasses and weeds along the side of the road and the animal was feeding in this short vegetation at the time the car was stopped approx. 35 feet away. The skunk did not see or hear the car and continued to feed by repeatedly thrusting its head and nose into the vegetation for 5 or 6 seconds and then moving on to another area 4 or 5 inches beyond. It appears that it was forcefully employing its nose as a 'rooting' organ. It fed for about 2 minutes and then the car horned was sounded and the skunk stopped and faced us for about 8 seconds and then walked to the road 2 feet away and inspected us again. It then ran awkwardly down the road for 10 feet and stopped, turned around and stood upright on all 4 legs in defense attitude, then turned around and ran 200 feet down the road to a culvert. During its journey down the road the tail was carried upright for the first 50' and then straight out for the last 150'. At the culvert it stopped but instead of going into the underroad protection, turned around and moved up the slope through the deciduous trees, again rather awkwardly and slowly over the irregular leaf-covered ground. There was hail (small) falling at the time of the observation.

At another locality in the Wakarusa River valley, noted 46 geese (mainly blue but some snow) flying NW at about 500' high and calling. Wakarusa River completely open. 2 horned larks at crossroads S of Peterson's in usual place. In the Wakarusa River Valley between Richland and proposed dam site noted 2 large flocks of juncos (80 to 120) each. These large flocks are not common.

1 2/10 mi. N and 1 3/20 mi. E Clinton (center of town), Douglas Co., Kansas.

March 13, 1964

Set 100 traps in the above area which is a field on the Robert Peterson property. The field is at the mouth of a canyon.