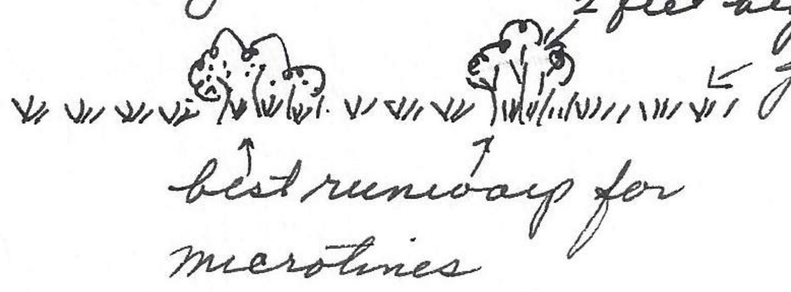
1 redtail hawk; 6 juncos, 1 downy woodpeckers, 4 crows, 18 tree sparrows. These birds mainly at pond at first of trip. Birds rare in forest. No squirrels were seen and only one cottontail rabbit along entire raute covered. Few deer tracks. At trapping area set 100 traps in groups of 2 at 20 feet intervals beginning at 3:00 P.M and concluding at 4:45 P.M. From 5:00 P.M to 6:30 made fine trip on line and then pulled line. It was noticed that the Reithrodontomys were the last animals to come out as twilight developed. The others were caught a evenly spaced intervals of time. The Synaptomys were taken on first inspection after 4:45 P.M. The area is on the flat valley floor and is grown to grasses and a few bushes of Symphoricarpus.



The grass was a fine leaved form and made a solid, almost impenetrable mass (3" to 12" high) It was difficult to separate to fine runways. Many of the runways were located by noting holes or windows in the grass surface where the microtine had intentionally made a window above or immediately adjacent the runway where the animal would come to receive the rays of the sun. 90 percent of the holes faced the west. I do not believe these were exit holes.

Sometimes the holes were directly above the runway. Many of the runways which had been solid frozen water were again water but still being used. Heard great horned owl call for first time this after noon at 5:00 P.M. It call frequently thereafter and at the head of the first canyon to east of road that leads up over the hill to the south. Noted that the fecal pellets of one of the Microtus ochrogaster a bright green like those of Synaptomys. Succulent green vegetation was present among the green dried grass. I believe the color of the fecal pellets of Synaptomys is due to the kind of vegetation eaten and not a physiological difference when compared to M. ochrogaster. There was a predominance of green pellets in runways but a predominance of M. ochro. captured. Left trapping area at 6:30 P.M. This afternoon noted that the water, at edge of pond which was just starting to thaw at edge, was moving out onto the ice and then, when the wind blew, returned to the edge of the lake again as determined by debris in water. This surging back and forth according to the wind on the ice mass may have an acceleration thawing action on the ice around edge of lake. In field solid soil about 2 inches below soft + wet soils.

See photos of microtines on opposite page