

Wakarusa Valley (Clinton area), Douglas Co., Kansas

Jan 2, 1966

Census of Wakarusa Valley in area to be flooded by the Clinton Reservoir. Followed roads in car at speed of 15-20 miles per hour. At beginning of trip the sky was clear except a few low clouds to east. Temp 38°F, brisk wind from north. Between Lawrence outskirts and Sigel (School House) noted only 6 meadowlarks and 1 loggerhead shrike. Mileage at Sigel (most recently proposed dam site) 85.4 at 12:35 P.M. (middle sec. 8, R19E, T13S). Will keep complete censuses of birds and mammals. <sup>car</sup> mileage meter approx <sup>(1 mile on car = 9/10 intrinsic mile)</sup> 1/10 mile <sup>more than mile</sup> and will have to be corrected. 85.0 now to S; 86.6 at "Y" turn near bridge over Wakarusa and continuing W; 86.8 old Microtus field now plowed; 86.8 bridge (small); 86.9 old microtus field now in winter wheat; 87.2 small bridge from drainage to N; 87.3 N end of the old proposed dam site (opposite old house at NE corner sec. 18, R19E, T13S) no birds observed since Sigel. no snow or ice on any exposure or ice on any body of water which is exceptional for this time of year. Birds scarce. Some trees in creek drainage and along Wakarusa show a yellowish brown as if in bud development. Trees on sidehills without this color. Continued W along straight road; 88.6 passing road that leads N to Petersons, pond and drainage canals like spring floods. no birds observed so far which is unusual; 89.1 crossing wakarusa bridge, water clear to approx 4 inches deep that is, stems can be seen to 4 inches under water, banks show high waters in fall, no birds; no ice in any exposure. nearly all fields have been plowed, usually some remain fallow or in pasture, thinking that in the next two years the most will have to be realized before inundation. Special contouring and drainage channels are attempts to improve property before government purchase. There is no doubt that this area is taking on a new appearance. 88.7 passing road that turns S to Clinton. 90.4 passing wakarusa bridge and continuing W on S side of river. at 1/10 mi W of the bridge turnoff noted first birds including, 2 blackcapped Chickadees, 2 blue jays, 4 cardinals, 18 slate colored juncos. Just beyond a hundred feet noted 38 juncos (slate colored). Road possible which is unusual for this time of year. These birds could be associated with farm house and cattle yards on