


The objective was to follow along uppermost benchland for this distance to determine feasibility of establishing a course that could be used for comparison when Clinton Reservoir is in operation. A comparison then could be made to show variation in community composition before and after the body of water is created. A complete census was made. Day absolutely clear, temp 49°F and stiff cold west wind, at least in early part of morning. As far as possible, will follow along uppermost level or erosional benchland which is approx. on the 970 foot level. Started at S end of proposed dam on highway at 9:15 A.M. Sparrow hawk here; followed along east or lee side of ridge and being out of the wind was comfortable in contrast to exposed situation where wind is too cold for comfort. As a result birds concentrated on lee side; 4 meadowlarks singing in open valley to E, also can hear red-wings singing; 3 slate colored juncos singing; robin calling; 2 crows also to E. This western side of the Washington Valley is marked by wet grassy situations; red bellied woodpecker left open field and flew into timber; 9:17 cottontail left area of jumpers and ran into underbush beneath another jumper; considerable singing to E below; 9:18 3 bluejay, 2 cardinals, 1 red-bellied woodpecker, 8 robins left and flew west over ridge into wind; some other robins singing; 2 male cardinals; now walking thru timber 1/2 way up slope, 2 titmice calling from two directions; noted a slate-colored junco chasing a goldfinch, both feeding on the ground; downy woodpecker; 9:22 fox sparrow, 2 downy woodpeckers feeding together, 1 fox squirrel; 9:24 2 yellow shafted woodpeckers; 9:25 fox squirrel, leaves on slope approx. 8 inches thick and have been blown from ridge, some gullies with 2 feet of dry leaves, all in crisp + dry condition; wind crosses ridge and affects leeward side to different degrees, some places windy, other relatively windless; can hear wind howling on ridge to W; 9:26 red-bellied woodpecker at nesting hole in dead tree; 9:31 ♂ + ♀ eastern bluebird, male of pair singing, dropping wings to side and out as it sang, 2 titmice, the female of which had tail feathers bent  as if it had been roosting all night in close quarters; 2 chickadees (all chickadees listed are black-capped); 9:33 a downy woodpecker

