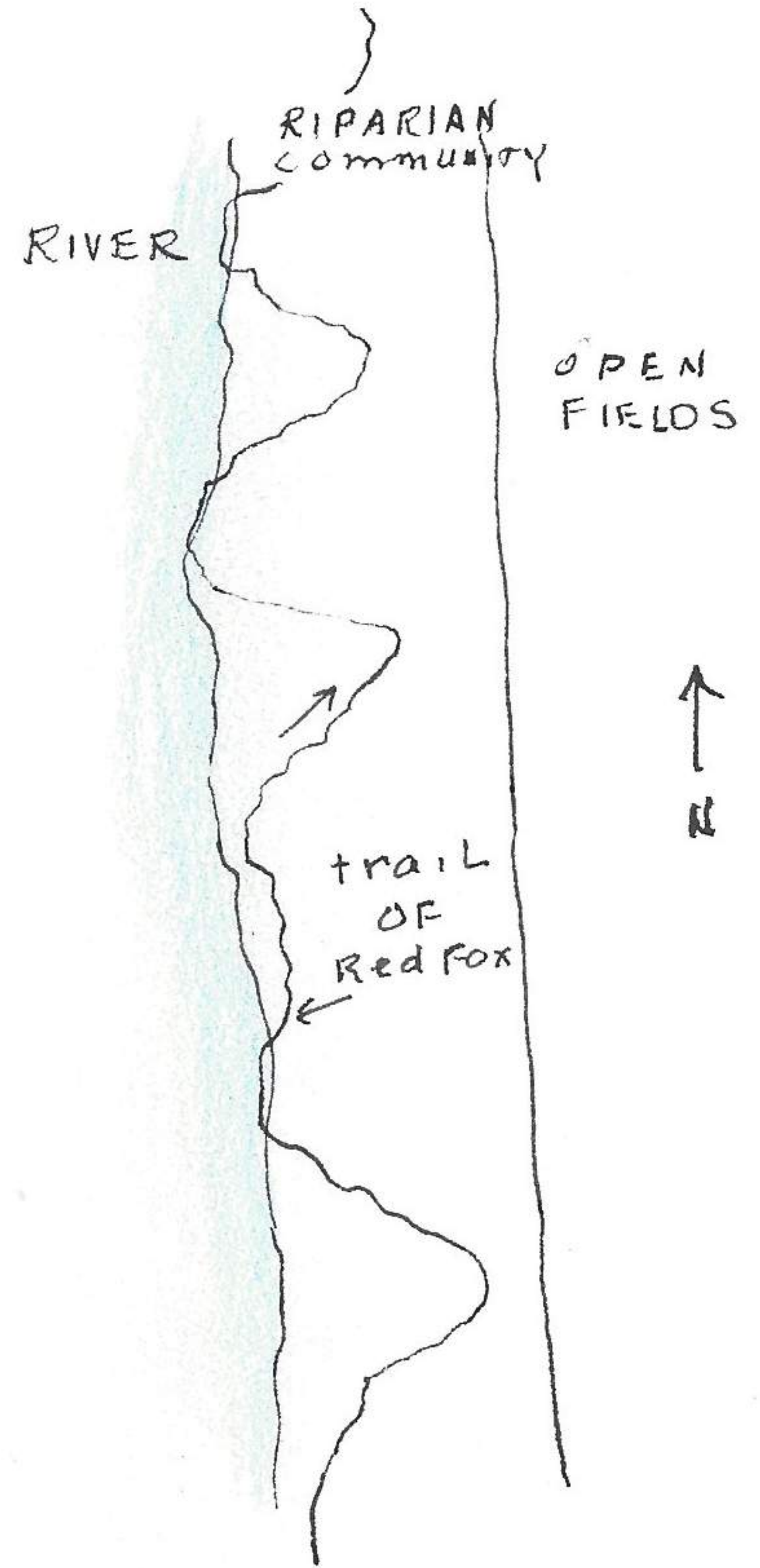


been an occasional cut willow (small) but no concentrated activity as in this area. The red fox has kept just in front of my advance and reacting by running, lopping and evasive action. Its pattern has been to follow nearer the river than the open cleared fields.

As it approached the fields it would turn abruptly and cut back toward the edge of the river where it would follow along or jump down onto the slope of the bank and walk for about 200' before reentering the upper slope and top of bank to continue progressively up-river. It definitely places more reliability on the security of the edge of the river than the edge of the open fields. The advance was from a running gait toward the river to a walking gait toward the field. Some intervals of the 4 sets of imprints measured 7 feet. The fox crossed fresh fox squirrel and rabbit tracks without deviation.



Frequently it would pause at edge of bank before descending. 3:00 2 blue jays called ahead 300' as if concerned about the fox. 2 b.c. chickadees here. 3:05 drainage 3 b.c. chickadees. 3:08 4 chickadees. no wind and no shadows from sun. Overcast irregular but heavy. 13 Oregon juncos, 2 b.c. chickadees, 2 titmice, 2 downys, 1 hairy. in one closely united group. 3:18 arrived edge of Buck Creek some 200 ft from its mouth. The fox <sup>fox</sup> approach the high bank, thence along edge for 20' to a tree that had fallen onto the bank. The fox then walked down this tree which was at a steep 45° angle to the creek bed and then crossed the ice to N side to continue on. I would not have



guessed this animal to have descended by such a precarious route as the loose snow on this slippery trunk (1 foot) of the tree. The general area at the mouth of Buck Creek supports a high population of fox squirrel. I

saw a greater concentration of trails and diggings in the snow than elsewhere on the trip. One called vigorously and the only one heard today just before I arrived and no doubt reacting to the fox as it passed thru the area. I have