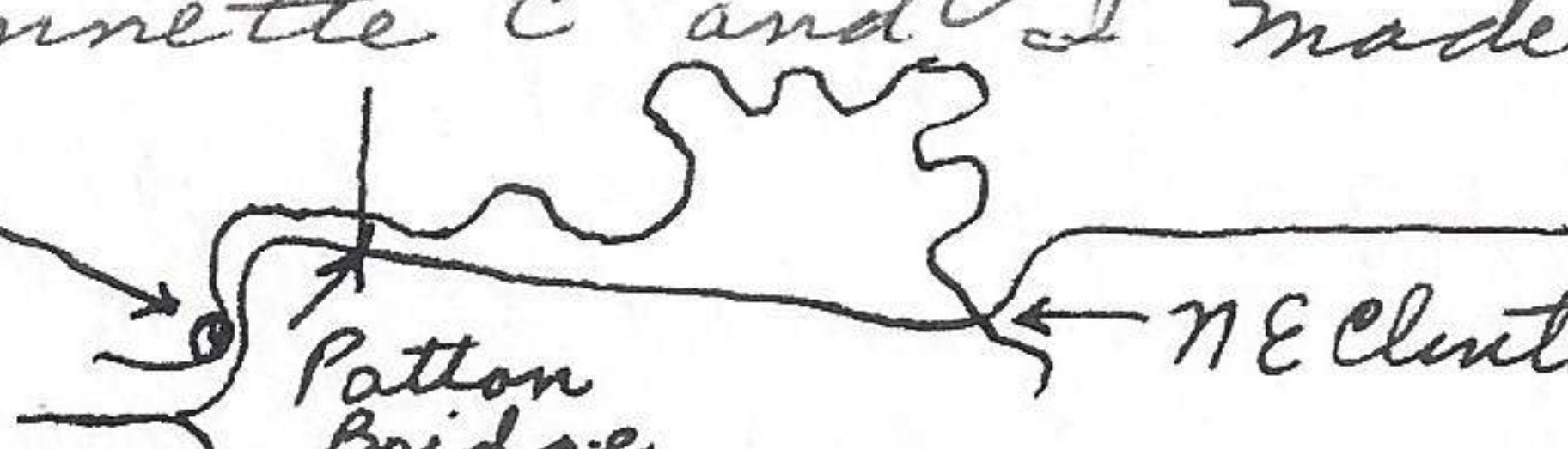


Wakarusa Valley, Clinton area, Douglas Co., Kansas

Jan. 14, 1968

Mary, Annette C and I made trip down Wakarusa River from a point  to the Wakarusa bridge at NE Clinton. Entire route on ice. Enroute

to beginning of river trip made census of all birds and mammals beginning at Sigel School house at 12:25 P.M. East skies clear but entire west skies cloudy and moving E. Temp. 10°F. Wind 5-15 mph from N. At Sigel a farmer was parked at side of road and had 4 coyotes in truck from coyote hunt of this morning. These coyote drives and packs of dogs have the most disastrous effect on wildlife of any of the sportsman's activities. Coyotes, deer, raccoons, opossums and skunks are continuously harassed. I would not be surprised that sort of activity is responsible for lack of pheasants and deer in this area. Left Sigel at mileage 33.2. 33.7 now to S. 34.3 at Y in road. 35.1 N end dam (originally proposed). 35.2 cardinal. 36.2 meadowlark. 36.3 passing Peterson Road. 36.9 Wakarusa bridge. river closed with ice and snow on top. Sun now under ^{high} clouds ~~massing~~ pushing in from S. 38.2 passing bridge. It is unusual not to see more birds. Low temp. & wind may be factor. 39.0 Left car and started trip down Wakarusa (12:40), ripples below long stretch slow water is open from W side to within 4' of E side, allowing us to pass without gaining slopes. Water as clear as I have ever seen; can see bottom without interference. 2 cardinals here. Other ripples below the main ripples are open but restricted. Considerable activity in this area. One to 2 sets of coyote tracks, one fox, 3 rabbit, 6 squirrel. It is difficult to sense coyote and fox, and to some extent rabbits because of the reentry of tracks of a single animal onto the snows of the iced river. It is possible that one fox could cruise a mile in the river bed. I believe that the best way would be to list every track encountered in a planned route down the river bed, say 8 feet out from one bank. This would be a compromise because foxes follow near edge while coyotes prefer the center of river bed for long range movement, or another way would be to list all kinds of tracks in a 50' linear strip of river bed every 1/10 of mile. Another problem in census work is the misidentification of tracks. Cats sometimes look like fox, dogs of certain sizes can be confused with coyote. In many instances one is required to find good imprint in snow to determine kind