

680929-138

Wakarusa River, near Elk Creek, Douglas Co., Kansas  
Sept. 29, 1968

Checked piracy channel on Wakarusa River and made several photographs to show changes since high water of this summer. Made complete census enroute, starting at the south end of proposed Clinton Reservoir dam. at mileage 68.6. Day clear, temp 88°F, slight wind. 2:10 P.M. 68.9 mourning dove. 70.0 cuckoo, Fall color changes noticeable for last week. On side of valley on hillside the dominant color is the usual green of summer. Less than 50 per cent is yellow from individual trees. Red trees are rare. The riparian growth along river has changed less than hillside growth. 71.0 mourning dove. 72.4 Clinton. 74.8 Belvoir bridge. 3 bluejays 75.6 now to S. 75.8 2 sparrow hawks. 76.5 now to west. These roads, this year have grass and weeds growing on road, in someplace where in the tracks. Grasshopper common on road, and on windshield about one every 10 seconds. 77.1 4 corners and continuing W. 77.9 red bellied woodpecker. birds scarce today. 77.8 2 bluejays, 1 cardinal. 77.9 red headed woodpecker. 78.4 top of hill. 78.5 pond on left with water. 78.9 young red-headed woodpecker. 79.2 4 corners on side of hill & now to S. 79.8 Walnuts common on road wherever this species borders road. Continued to bridge over Wakarusa at 80.4. Left car 2:25 P.M. flicker calling, mourning dove. 2:41 now leaving field and entering forest. 2:38 red bellied woodpecker. Spider webs pull leaves on side of trail when pushing thru them. Along river noted two sets deer tracks trending down stream. Continued to piracy channel where several photos were recorded;

680929-1 photo from N side of channel showing the large elm tree now eroded out of the bank and lying across the channel. This tree was 10' from original bank. A hackberry now is the marker at edge of S side of channel. Part of falls to right and in upper right-hand corner is the log jam that caused the piracy. Water from last flood (in Aug?) flowed over the ridge that now supports the channel but did not do unusual damage except to turn weed vegetation in direction of flow. This area N of channel however should eventually erode thru.

680929-2 photo from about 30' N of channel, (showing upstream) showing large