

681012-145

Wakarusa Valley, Clinton Area, Douglas Co., Kansas  
Oct 12, 1968

made census across valley from Sigel School House (or  
n end of proposed Clinton Reservoir dam) to a point on  
Lone Star road. Route will be indicated. made  
complete census. Slight rain but not enough to make roads  
wet. Skies completely clouded. 9:35 A.M. 31.8 Sigel. 5  
meadowlarks. 32.5 Crow in top willow. 33.0 Wakarusa  
bridge. water muddy and above normal. 33.2 redbellied  
woodpecker. Approx. 60° of riparian growth along  
Wakarusa shows yellow color in leaves. On hillside  
to S the yellow is about 80° with some dull reddish. The  
true red may come in later. Hillside yellow is result  
of individual yellow trees. 34.4 Collins intersection and  
centering S to fork road west. 34.7 flicker. 35.9 7 meadow-  
larks in one group. 38.0 4 meadowlarks. 36.2 Rock Creek  
bridge. Thunder frequently but no increase in rain. 36.9  
top hill to S. 37.1 5 bluebirds. 37.3 2 blue jays. 38.0 8  
starlings associated with farm cattle pens. 38.4 meadow-  
lark and 1 mourning dove. 38.7 Lone Star Road and  
end of census. Continued to Lone Star Lake. A mocking-  
bird called several times. At dam caught a dozen  
or so perch and sunfish. They feed best as winds blow  
debris against dam. While fishing a Natrix swam  
E about 10 feet out from edge of dam. When opposite  
I place line leader and fly about 5' in front of his  
direction and when the snake swam over the leader I  
pull the fly in and caught the snake on the venter  
side. Broke pole but captured specimen. It swam to  
rocks on dam and partly lodged itself so securely  
that I was almost impossible to extricate. This  
specimen is no:

681012-1 Natrix sipedon. 590 mm body, 162 mm tail, 178 grams.

Took 3 photographs of this snake.

681012-2 of ventral scales midpoint

681012-3 head, dorsal.

681012-4 general view ventral coloration.

Water snakes are difficult to capture when in water  
but this system may be of some usefulness when  
employed from a boat or from bank. The best method  
on bank is to check rocks, boards or other protective  
coverings near edge of water.