

Kaw River, Lawrence to Eudora, Douglas Co., Kansas

Oct. 13, 1968

made canoe trip from bridge at Lawrence to mouth of Wakarusa River and thence up Wakarusa to bridge N of Eudora. Day starting with complete coverage of sky with clouds (20% rain predicted) and wind from SSW, with a velocity enough to ripple water but not sufficient to cause waves. Navigation without difficulty. Water higher than usual for this time of season. Left 9:50 P.M. 10:10 great blue heron left bank and flew down stream. This bird was exceptionally large. 10:12 redtail hawk resting on utility pole of lines that cross river. 3 crows calling. Bluejay, chickadees on banks. 10:20 single gadwall left right bank, swam out 8 feet and then flew down river. 10:40 high voltage lines cross river. The large great blue heron left bank and continued down river. Spotted sandpiper on bank. The black capped chickadee is the most common bird along river. 8 redwings flew by. 10:43 redtail hawk. 10:45 major drainage to right. water green in contrast to brown water of Kaw. First redbellied woodpecker called from here. The large great blue heron joined two smaller ones just beyond drainage. Approx 50 chimney swifts circled over trees. 10:55 passing first bank swallow calling on right. 11:00 sandpiper feeding on green caterpillar at junction of sands and vegetation line. 11:05 2 myrtle warblers feeding in cottonwood. Have heard others this morning. The riparian growth along river is predominantly green of summer with slight fusion of yellow. This yellow cast is not produced by individual yellow trees as will occur later. No reds except virginiana creepers. These trees of cottonwood, willow, tamarisk, sycamore are exceptionally green in contrast to hillside forests and city trees which are near their maximum in color change. 11:15 3 killdeers. 11:18 Capsize Point. 11:25 greater yellow legs flew NW at about 600' high. 11:35 Channel to E. water continuous from Kaw. Cottonwoods on W side channel are unusual in that they have turned yellow in contrast to green trees elsewhere. Redtail + killdeer at mouth of this prairie channel. 11:43 across from Mud Creek. None followed