

681123-173

Kaw River, Mud Creek to Linwood, Douglas - Leavenworth Cos., Kansas  
Nov. 23, 1968

made solitary canoe trip from a point approx 1/10 mi down stream from convergence of mud Creek and the Kaw River on N side of river. Day perfect for canoeing. Some clouds of a cold front just arriving from the west and N and passing to the east. Air temp 56°F, water 46°F. Left at 8:38 A.M. 8:55 ♀ mallard left from right and flew up stream to mud Creek. Photo 681123-1 <sup>and 681123-1a</sup> down stream showing conditions of wind, sky and general atmosphere 9:00 opposite east end of Piracy Channel. Clouds now about 80% and rest a blue sky. River high for this time of year and good current. Will float entire trip. 9:08 redtail left tree on S side and flew to tree on north side river. From here it flew directly N almost out of sight. This bird was dark and my judgement was that it was a Harlequin but on basis of its direct flight would be inclined to say it was an American Kowaleg. 9:10 photo 681123-2 and 681123-3 of river and one with canoe. Clouds of cold front now becoming solid and sun passing under clouds which proved to be complete for the rest of the day. 9:12 major drainage to left. Windless on river and almost absolutely quiet, so much so that one can hear soft calls like the bluebird at some distance from the river. Call of birds in riparian communities very clear & distinct. This condition of a windless channel, quiet day and good river current produced the most

ideal canoeing day. These days are exceptional and are generally associated with the passing by of a mild cloudy cold front or between the changes of a high to a low pressure center. Clouds have moved in to just west of north. Taking all factors into consideration would say that the presence or absence of wind makes the difference between an enjoyable and effortless trip and one that is aggravating and exhausting. especially if the wind is against you. Birds heard so far are: robin, bluejay which are most active, bluebird, goldfinch, wren, singing. 9:30 temp 54 or 2 degrees lower than when clouds were fewer and there was more sun. This change of temp. may be associated with the actual passing of the cold front. Slight breeze from NE. which may be channel influenced. 9:33 passing by rock island just before main bend to left. Canoe slightly being forced to south bank. male mallard left bank and gained high elevation, thence down stream. 9:47 end high bank at concave side of curve. Kingfisher in down tree just beyond curve. 10:00 tree island (trees on bank between two drainages and not an actual island. This is a landmark of previous notes). It is a good idea to establish landmarks for position. Killdeer on S <sup>low</sup> side on sands. These birds are quiet for the most part, at this time of year. The greatest change of foliage this trip is the loss of leaves of willows. The willow now show defoliation at the lower levels of their branches