

Wakarusa Valley, W of Clinton, Douglas Co., Kansas 690122-20

Jan. 22, 1969

made census of birds and mammals from Elk Creek to Clinton Cemetery along S side of Wakarusa Valley (see route on map). Enroute from Lawrence noted wakarusa about 4 feet higher than usual summer level. Day cloudy, no sun, foggy earlier, temp 56°F. Wind variable. Started roadside census at S end proposed dam at mileage 43.2. Redtail and meadow-lark. Rock creek higher than usual summer level. 44.9 y.s. flicker. 46.5 redtail. 47.1 Clinton. 47.6 sparrow hawk. 48.5 cardinal. 49.6 Belvoir bridge, no ice on or in river channel, water brown. 49.8 2 meadowlarks. 51.0 sterling. 51.1 sparrow-hawk. 51.8 2 redtails 4 feet apart in top willow trees. Cattle aggregation below. 51.9 8 Eng. sparrows. 53.1 now to S. Ponds melted around edge but ice in center. 54.1 sparrow hawk. 54.9 crow. Small creeks flowing and water clear. Large creeks with brown water. 55.0 blue jay. 55.3 bridge over Wakarusa. 30 tree sparrows, 8 slate-colored juncos, 2 cardinals. 55.9 End census, and beginning of hillside census from Elk Creek to Clinton Cemetery, a distance of 6 1/2 miles by census route. Left at 12:05. Chris will arrange to pick me up at Clinton destination. Will survey (1) open upland grasslands, (2) climax deciduous forests (3) adjusted or modified forests. 12:07 top hill at old tree, blue jay. 3 crows calling about 3/10 mi to W. 12:10 blue jay, titmouse, cottontail. Well follow forest-field contact. Cottontail tracks in soils at edge forests. 12:13 now to N. 12:17 now to E. 12:24 at point where upper set fields of native grass passes thru corridor to lower field enclosed by forests. This corridor is a vantage place to observe birds passing from one segment of forest to the other. At this point 6 slate-colored juncos moves from W to E across the clearing. 12:27 now to N. At this point there are more and deeper gullies than on the W-E course. The uncut strip of native grasses supported many runways, 2 bird nests in this strip. 12:28 N end of strip. Area quiet. 12:35 top ridge at fence. Along the route so far in but field of native grasses, examined approx. 30 bales of grass (round form) and in no case were there evidence of trails or meerkat activity. Cross top and arrived at 3 trunk jumper tree at 12:40. From this vantage point could not see hawks or mammal activity such as coyotes etc. Noted that the native grass is generally distributed in drainage system except in floor of canyon where it is replaced by a