

690122-21
yellow colored grass. The native grass varies from individual isolated bunches to complete coverage. Depending on how the grazing is rotated, the grass varies in life form. In this drainage the brush of young trees is gaining foothold by extending isolated patches.
12:52 2 redtail hawks flew down drainage. 12:55 meadowlark singing. sparrow hawk. 12:58 creek water running approx 1 gallon per 10 seconds. 90° green bottom from masses + algae. Some black slate rocks as outwash but bottom mainly grown to grasses to edge of creek. Patches of coarse, high yellow grasses support good microtine (*Microtus ochrogaster*, *Synaptornis* and *Sigmodon*) trails and activity.
1:01 drainage. From here to top of ridge on a diagonal course counted 82 well developed microtine trails (mainly *M. och.*) and the nearer the top, the better and more trails. (This number can be correlated with previous trips). 1:10 top at point. Down other side of ridge (diagonal) to fence good microtine trails. Beyond fence the area was heavily grazed. 1:18 head of pond. The wind is cool and moderate on ridges but quiet in draws or gullees. 95% ice in pond. no water in creek below. meadowlark singing. 1:22 east drainage and wet and ice formation. Grasses on east slope of drainage to top of ridge with sparsely arranged native grasses and closely grazed grasses between bunch type native grasses. From old eroded trail on sidehill to at 1:25 to top (diagonal) counted 38 well formed runways crossing sparsely + closely grazed grasses to adjacent patches of native grass. The trails were deep and partly covered. This was not expected but would prove to be an excellent place to trap because the runways are so conspicuous.
1:28 top ridge at point. a good redtail nest in big treeⁿ beyond point and only slightly below level of ridge (a good point for observation station of this nest). 1:33 sparrow hawk. Sun breaking through temporarily. meadowlark singing continuously. 1:36 drainage, clear standing water but no running water. microtine actively less meadowlark (eastern) singing. I have noticed that there are no cattle on range. no snow on any exposure. 1:42 second fork. water 1 pint per 5 seconds. Grass growing to edge of creek. meadowlark singing. Although native grasses are as good as in other drainages, there do not appear to be as many microtine runways. 1:45 good microtine trails on bench. From the previous drainage, to fence on this bench, counted 29 microtine runways. (good trapping area). 1:51 drainage, water 1 pint per 5 seconds. 2 blue jays, 4 juncos, 2 song sparrows, redtail, 2 crows calling to 5. 2:03 3 horned larks. When they left they flew 5 to beyond