

oxbow lake to SE noted 65 American mergansers. One group were feeding in upper end of lake and were driving fish to end of lake in abreast formation. From top of ridge (wind & waves) noted unusual stand of native andropogon to W. This area should be preserved as example of long ^{blue} stem grassland. The point N of drainage is an excellent vantage point. Returned to canoe and left at 1:35. Temp 38°F. 1:40 22 mallards flying N. Some large tree stumps slipped to water level. 2:03 oxbow drainage to left. 1 gal. per 5 sec. 2 redwing blackbirds. 2:12 hellbender contact. 3 crows, 2 bluejays, redtail. 2:20 level of last flood (a week or so ago) ^{14" feet above} water and measured ~~at~~ directly E of point. ^(5" 2" to top of bank) 2:26 now to E. 2:31 at a pile of debris 8 feet above level of water with beaver trail leading from water, 4 beaver left in the following succession 1 young, dark one, last year adult, another last year adult (both light), and a young dark one (young approx 1 foot long, exclusive of tail). All animal had dry hair. The last young remained half submerged for 5 seconds before submerging. These beaver were caused to leave by hitting the broad side of the paddle on the surface of the water. If the house is shallow or temporary, the beaver will leave upon hearing the report of the paddle sound. 2:35 past a last year adult in a concavity of bank (size of beaver) 2 feet above the water. It left at 10 feet distance. The concavity was lined with 2 inches of shreds of bark. This concavity was not associated with vegetation or limbs of any description but in plain soils and in plain sight. Exposed to sun. 10 feet away was a muskrat on a limb at water level. 2:43 mounds of soil on both sides of river. Drainage to left just beyond. North water flowing at approx. 1 gal per 10 sec. Marsh hawk. These birds are most frequently associated with drainage systems entering the river channel. I am impressed with the lack of contamination of these waters. There is only an occasional can or bottle. The sands and gravel bars are without much evidence of glass or other manmade artefacts. Wind changing toward SE. 4 crows. 2:50 25 tree sparrows, 4 black-capped chickadees. Birdlife unusually scarce. 2:51 major ^{drainage} level to right and level of river continues up this lateral drainage. (Rock Creek)