

Left Libby Lake Camp at 4:20, mileage 59023. At point where a deep canyon enters side of valley at 59045, made census across sloping valley to North Platte River, thence N to Saratoga and the return. 5 barn swallows, cowbird, it is evident that swallows will complicate census so will record as estimate only at end of census. Cowbird, 3 redwings, Citellus road kill, Citellus rd. kill, 5 redwings, cowbird, sparrowhawk, sparrowhawk, magpie, sparrowhawk, one of the irrigated grass pastures has now developed into willow from 3'-5' high. Elk Hollow, duck in pond, redwing, 59054 North Platte River, 4 crows, magpie, 3 mourning doves, 4 mourning doves, junction 230-130, approx 80 mourning doves in compact group on fence line along side of road, no prairie dogs active, night hawk. Continued N to Saratoga and on return at 8 mi. S of Saratoga not one adult and 2 juvenile redbill together on telephone poles, in same area noted ♀ and 2 juvenile antelope and another group of 2 adults and 1 juvenile. At junction of 230-130 noted redbill over prairie dog town. 59073 North Platte River. Across sloping valley recorded 2 adults and 1 juvenile antelope and 8 at mouth of canyon.

At a point at beginning of open valley E of front ridge, noted a road kill mink. This animal was between dry sagebrush slopes and valley of willows and beaver dams. Five magpies fed on this animal. The ponds and open fields have changed considerably since first photographed years ago. The ponds are crowded with vegetation and willows are invading. The entire valley is developed into willow from beaver activity. Apparently the beaver are at a high because of the complete utilization of roadside drainages, there being dams every 20-30 feet. It is surprising that the large ponds are not being kept open by these beaver populations. The presence of adult and young ducks would indicate a breeding population of these birds. Continued up canyon. Because of the new road there is not the numbers of small mammals observed. Continued to Libby Lake Camp and set traps among Engelmann spruce below camp as of the setting of July 29, 1971.