

Niangua River, Missouri.

March 19, 1972

Annette P and I made canoe trip on Niangua River, leaving Lawrence at 1:30 P.M. with car and trailer and canoe at mileage 49716. Day clear and temp 70°F, wind approx 25 miles per hour. Route Olathe, Warsaw, Louisville, arriving at Bennett State Park at 6:00 P.M. at mileage 49917. Enroute 15 striped skunk road kills and generally distributed, Approx 30 opossum road kills. Birds rare because of wind. Only 5 redtails and 3 sparrow hawks. The first turkey vultures (2) were at Bennett Springs on the Niangua. Camped in Bennett Springs State Park. Frogs calling in evening like a bird chirping. There were very few people in the area and this pre-season time is preferred over the summer crowds.

March 20, 1972

Birds in Park include: common grackle, robin, Eng sparrow, mourning dove, red-bellied woodpecker, bluebird, bluejay, starling, meadowlark, Chipping sparrow and a mammal the grey squirrel.

Put canoe in river, at first ford above Bennett Springs some 7-8 miles up river. Some observation on river for first part of river are: titmouse, 3 vultures, pileated woodpecker, A pileated woodpecker nested in the S side of a sycamore tree 25' high (the nest). It left the nest & flew N across the river. Three crows, 3 large turtles, 1 small turtle, cardinal, great blue heron, 3 large and 3 small turtles, one a soft shell. 10:30 A.M. 10:40 Carolina wren calling, 32 turtles in 1/10 mi 10:45 pileated & red bellied woodpeckers, blue jay. 10:50 kingfisher. 10:56 bend and rapids. 10:58 10 turkey vultures in one group circling above high cliffs of river (to right), mourning dove. 11:15 2 woodducks, red-bellied woodpecker, slate colored juncos. 11:25 bend to W. 19 woodducks, brown creeper, black-capped chickadee. 12:00 east curve and fast water all along, robin. Lunch at 12:30 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. 1:05 3 ♂ & 1 ♀ greenwing teal, brood winged hawk, 1:20 crow chasing a grey squirrel at the crows nest. 1:40 bend, now to SE. 1:45 2 woodducks, large natrix. 2:25 rock in river, 2 ducks. Arrived, ^{Bennett Springs} 2:45 P.M. or 4 hours & 15 min trip. The notes above, especially the latter part of trip are not complete. There is no difficulty on river except last part of river where as many as 3 channels diverge from main river. These are ^{partly} choked with small shrubs & trees. Water clear and cold. This is the best water level to travel of any season.