

Perry Reservoir, Jefferson Co., Kansas

May 5, 1972

Museum Techniques Course to Paradise Point. Materials needed cones, paddles, life preservers, sponge, food, milk, butter, boots, raincoat, shoes, jacket, bird book, skin kit, cotton, traps, tow, thread, clay, oat meal, corn meal, ice box, binoculars, watch, journal, pen, skin pans, black glass pins, maps.

Robert Waltner + Stephen Peckham + I drove to Paradise Point at 1:00 P.M. and established Camp at NW corner Point of the peninsula. At 3:30 P.M. set 100 trap in field of switch grass with general weed debris at base. This field is SE of the circular turn around just S of entrance to the park. All traps in runways or feeding corridors. Complete overhead protection. Take approx 100' beyond. One small mammal observed. Considerable cut grasses and some green feces. Completed line at 4:30 P.M. High wind, high cirrus overcast and temp approx 75° F. Wind approx 25 MPH. Birds in area are bluewing teal, loon, cormorant, Forster tern, ring-billed gull, dickcissel, cowbirds, meadowlark, red-wing blackbird. In forested area: bluejay, redhead, Baltimore oriole, chickadee, starling, grackle, Turkey vulture, mourning doves. Other birds are: Franklin gull, barn swallow, bobwhite, cardinal, blue bird, titmouse

red-bellied woodpecker, orchard oriole, shrike, redstart, robin, downy.

From trapline caught the following (8:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.)

- 1 *Synaptomys*
- 2 *Synaptomys* *seymourensis*
- 17 *Microtus ochrogaster*

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Other birds. Goldfinch, Crested flycatcher, Cottontail. Brown thrasher, eastern kingbird. Inspected trap line set last night. This field is being allowed to return to native plants and grasses and as yet has not been cut which is routine for other areas of Paradise

Point. There did not seem to be a preference for small mammal use of field, however, edge effect had some control in increased numbers. Low cut grasses associated with this area did not support mammals. If these areas could be maintained in this condition of succession, not too low or high, the small mammals could build up a tremendous population for predatory species such as weasels, marsh hawks etc. Cutting grass in such a way as to leave adequate protection or islands of vegetation may have some effect as ^{edge} grazing animal in keeping the condition prairie.