

Pocahontas, Illinois

July 12, 1972 (Monday)

Left 7:00 A.M. at mileage 52952. Fog, rain and thunder in area, visibility $3/10$ miles. 52960 raccoon road kill associated with vegetated pond near side of road. Grackles are most commonly seen in river valley and in an unusual situation are nearly 100 per cent flying south, even on the uplands. Fog increasing as we travel east. 52984 red tail hawk in tree although raining. The fog bank increased to maximum and then decreased to thin layer with indication of sun at which point it rain very hard after which the road beyond was dry. but fog maintained with visibility approx $1/2$ mile. Wind from south. This highway has created many barrow pits but there are no ducks 52998. visibility approx 2 miles. Grackles moving south and mainly as individuals or small groups. 53006 Little Wabash River 53023 fog increasing to $2/10$ miles. no gopher diggings in road cuts. 53059 leaving flat uplands and entering flat valleys and hills. 53069.8 State Line of Indiana. at 9:15 53079. Wabash River and is about same size as Kansas River. 53082 first sparrow hawk since Lawrence. Strip mining planted to conifers and are doing good. 53104 valleys & ridges like marine estuaries. 53119 2 bald eagles? 53123 first saprophite in trees. Temp at noon under cloudy skies 73° F. 53218 sparrow hawk. 53269 marmot at side of road with heavy traffic 10' away. Creeks with vegetation on sandbars and at edge of creeks, 53373 forests now broadleaf and fewer oaks than to west and are taking on a decided new character. One tree a white barked one. Salt Fork Lake at 4:25 near road turnoff to marina (State Park), 3 marmots. Approx 15 small cottontail rabbits feeding on side of road shoulder. Camped at Salt Lake Fork Lake at 53428 (at first contact of road with lake (on way to headquarters)), after having driven to camping grounds & return. Birds in area on S side of road in area of isolated lakes are: song sparrow, yellow-throated chat, crow, pewee, housewren, thrush (call up & then down), eastern kingbird chased 2 cedar wren from dead tree in lake, barn swallow, goldfinch, titmouse, chipping sparrow, red-billed grebe, yellow ^{shotted} flicker, bobwhite.