

Atchison Co., Kansas (several localities)

March 15, 1974

Mr. Raymond L. Lewman, <sup>(Topeka Natural Soc.)</sup> a student in my museum Science Course) reported the following. My interest in coyotes grew out of an observation of the continued clearing of land for agriculture purposes, and how this might affect the coyote population in Atchison Co. The information was gathered on March 2 and 3 of 1974 from interviews of the following people.

Mr. Robert E. Lewman; Route 1, Cummings Kansas: Robert Lewman, my brother, farms approximately one mile east and one mile south of Cummings. He reported two coyotes in an open pasture bordering on the farm lane. "I was surprised by the openness of the coyote slowly moving across the pasture in broad daylight."

Mr. Leroy Ingberman, Route 1, Cummings: Mr. Ingberman lives in Cummings and works in Atchison, hunts coyotes in Atchison County on the week-ends. Mr. Ingberman reported coyotes appeared plentiful in Atchison County in spite of intensive hunting. Mr. Ingberman sold approximately ten to twenty hides during the fall and winter of 1973-1974. He sold the hides in Valley Falls, and speculated that the buyer in Valley Falls purchased approximately 9,000 hides in Northeast Kansas.

Mrs. Lawrence Harman, Route 1, Atchison, Kansas: Mrs. Harman, an employee of the Kansas State Receiving Home in Atchison, observed six coyotes from the window of her office in northeast Atchison near the city limits. Mrs. Harman reported the conditions of the coyotes' coats were poor. "They had rather mangy looking coats" she observed.

Mr. Russell Voelker, Valley Falls: Mr. Voelker, the hide buyer in Valley Falls supplied the following information concerning coyotes. Mr. Voelker purchased hides from October 15, 1973 to February 10, 1974. 1500 hides were purchased from hunters encompassing an area approximately north of I-70 highway in Kansas and the contiguous counties of the states bordering Kansas on the north, east, and west likewise north of I-70. Of special interest, of the total number of hides, approximately 200 hides were purchased from Atchison and Doniphan Counties in Northeast Kansas. The characteristics of the coyotes were 1) average weight 25-30 pounds 2) average age 2 to 3 years old. 3) 8 out of 10 hides had surface or subsurface lice 4) western Kansas coyotes were free of lice. The hides are graded from 1-4; one is excellent, and four is bad. The breakdown of hides handled by Mr. Voelker was: 70%--- grade 1, 2; 30%--- grade 3, 4. Mr. Voelker felt the reason for the number of sightings could be traced to lack of hunting at the present time.