

Wakarusa and Kaw rivers, Douglas Co., Kansas

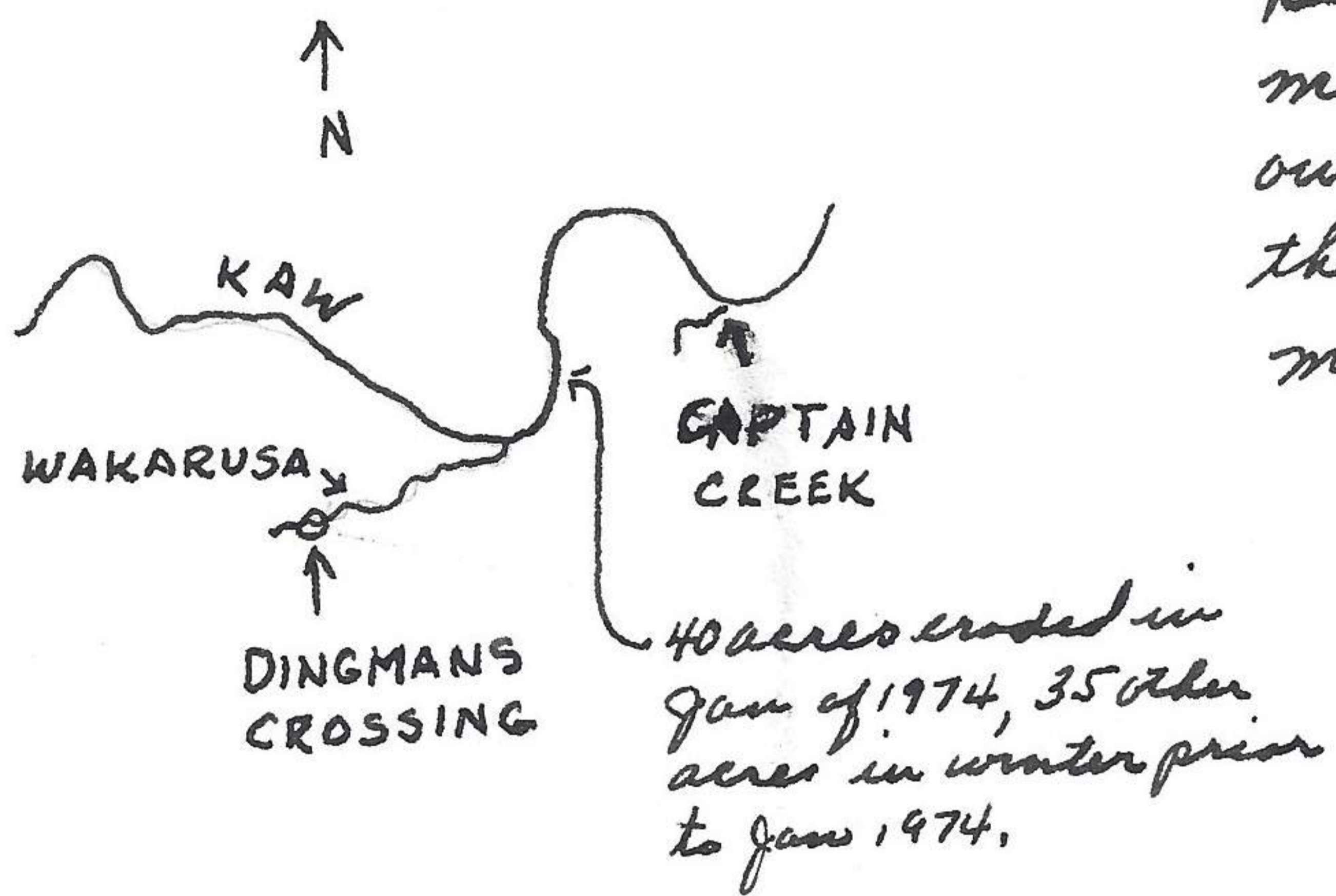
April 20, 1974

made canoe trip down Wakarusa from Dingmans Crossing to mouth of Wakarusa, thence down Kaw to Soldier Creek. Larry Madrein, Donna Smithley, Stephen Swartz, Mark Whitaker, Annette P. Bee and myself made trip (mus. Tech Course 185). Left 9:30 A.M.

Takes approx 1 1/2 hrs to travel to put-in and to shuttle cars. Take-out at 2:20 P.M. or 4 hrs and 20 min enroute. Made the following general observations: Day cool, wind increasing and rain in later part of trip. Wind severe.

Between Dingmans Crossing and mouth of Wakarusa noted 3 great horned owls. One contested by 4 bluejays and the other two uncontested. Between mouth of Wakarusa and Captain Creek noted 2 great horned owls. All single birds.

Beaver evidence all along way either tracks in mud, peeled bark or bank trails. Evidence



in Wakarusa less than in Kaw. Best evidence in Wakarusa is in lower region of drainage. Beaver were most prevalent on right hand side of Kaw from beginning of forested banks to mouth of Captain Creek. Evidence continuous with some cut trees. This area receives protection from the public and in addition has substantial tree and limb debris on banks.

Three pairs wooducks on Wakarusa, 2 pairs on Kaw.

American coot at mouth of beaver hole, ^{on Kaw} (bark entrance at water level) and remained there while we passed by not over 12 feet away. 10 other coot were swimming in river and were confiding to our presence.

18 blue wing teal near Captain Creek.

Three green heron, as isolated individuals, on Wakarusa, most near mouth of drainage.

The blue jays were more common in upper region of Wakarusa and were traveling in groups of 2-5.

Other birds include mourning doves, cardinals, red-bellied woodpeckers, chickadees, house wren, spotted sandpipers (3), and a considerable number of migrating warblers.

Wind blew sands from sand bars, white-caps formed and with confrontation