

67°F at 3:56. There is an optical illusion in this country with objects being nearer than they appear. 024.6 junction 707-812. 50 meadowlarks. Some country roads have more birds, shrill a common bird along with meadowlarks. meadowlark make trees appear as if in leaves. They grow on trees in sandy soils. 31.3 increase in mourning doves which are associated with ^{first} milo fields. 33.5 up hawk on way to Merkle. 38.0 sparrow hawk. 039.6 marsh hawk. 043.0 Highway 20, now W. at 5:10 P.M. 10064 at 5:40 P.M. sundown and end of census. 06x6.3 Sweetwater turnoff. 10120.1. Continued on and arrived at Sand Springs, Texas at 7:15 P.M. at 10126.

Sand Springs, Texas.

Dec. 28 1975

Left at mileage 10126 at 7:30 A.M. 38°F. 137 first gulls (80) on trip. Some ducks in pond 143.3 80 Canada geese, another flock of equal size, one of 6 and one of 10. This area is associated with lobo or impounded river. 145.9 Two flocks 8, and 20 Canadian geese. 151.5 15 Canada geese and same number of crows 153.2 La Mesa Oil and cotton in this area and because of several processing plants is probably the heart of the cotton growing. Birds rare along way. Will make census for 2 miles (155.2). No birds in 3 mile. 158.8 Midland Co. 164.6 first meadowlark and first bird since mileage 155.2, 168.9 redtail. 174.5 5 great blue herons. 176.1 bridge at exit 131. airport to N. 176.6 marsh hawk. 177.3 Harris hawk? and one flying above. 178.2 marsh hawk. 179.2 striped skunk rd. hill. 185.6 Ector Co. 188.5 2 marsh hawks. 191.4 broodwing hawk size hawk. 201.2 2 marsh hawks. 206.2 beginning of yucca and more green in landscape. Greasewood? common. 208.3 Brewer's blackbird. West of Penwell there are no oil wells or processing plants as far as one can see indicating we are out of the oil producing anticlines. East of here there is a continuous zone of processing plants & oil wells. This heavily used area is unusual for an otherwise uninhabited part of Texas. 214.9 20 Brewer blackbirds. 219.1 first large area of moving sands. 220.8 marsh hawk in moving sand area. This area has been made into a State Park. Brewer blackbirds increasing as we go west and are in flocks of from 30 to 60. 225.9 exit to Marathon 9:40 A.M. 226.8 leaving Marathon on high ^{way} 80 for Fort Stockton at 10:40 A.M. Temp 40°F. High stratus clouds. 230.1 marsh hawk. Will keep complete census of birds across country.