

Bennett Springs, Dallas Co., Missouri.

July 15, 1976

Ron Mickelberry and Chris Bee float Niangua River from Moon Valley access point to Bennett Springs convergence. They left at 10:30 A.M. and arrived 3:10 P.M. 7.2 miles. Water level favorable for Sea-Eagle 380. Their comments were: canoe extremely stable and almost non-collapse collapsible. Capsizable. Pivots and with kayak paddles difficult to keep on straight course. Rides rapids and shallow riffles better than aluminum canoe.

Birds in area: mourning dove, kingfisher, 1♀ and 8 young in one family of woodpecks, bluejay, robin, turkey vulture, whip-poor-will, downy woodpecker, yellow-shafted flicker, grackles feeding on trout remains at river edge, Eng. sparrow, crow (one flock 6 birds), red-headed woodpecker, eastern kingbird, cardinal, brown thrasher.

In evening observed several muskrats in river at Bennett's Spring. Rained most of late afternoon. Min temp last night 64°F. max during early evening 86°F. min temp this late afternoon 68°F, max 84°F.

Photo 760715-1 of Chris and Ron as they arrived from Moon Valley to convergence of Bennett Springs and Niangua. Photo 760715-2 of canoe in Bennett Springs river. ^{and 760715-3} Water in this river is clear and Niangua murky. Contact between two rivers noticeable. I cannot remember the Niangua so murky. This condition may be related to increase clearing of land and increase grazing of pasturelands.

July 16, 1976

Left 53860.0

min temp. 68°F. Left 9:00 A.M. Sky blue and 40% clouds. Rained last night. ^{Photo 760716-1 of camp at Bennett Springs} Continued on scenic route - 5 and 76 to Silver Dollar

city. First mockingbird since Bennett's Spring at 864.4. redhead and grackle. at 653.6 goldfinch, eastern kingbird and meadowlark. at Silver Dollar City noted and 30x fold increase in visitors. Went thru dove. Left and continued S on 65 to 7 and thence to Pruitt where we camped on private property (camp) on N side Buffalo River about 1/10 mile down river.

Whip-poor-will called in evening.

Pruitt, Arkansas.

Photos 730717-1 to 6 at this primitive camp including Ron, Annette, Chris.

July 17, 1976

Left camp. Fog in A.M. min temp 53°F. Drove to primitive camp about 1.7 miles up river from bridge and then returned to government put-in immediately up river from bridge at Pruitt.