

8 1/10 mi. down Kaw River from mouth of Wakarusa River, Douglas Co. Kansas.

April 14, 1977

Checked sand bar here and the one 4 1/10 mi down river on same side thinking that this bar would reflect the artefacts from the eroded field upstream. At the abandoned house met the owner of the field who stated that he has lost approx. 60 acres of the field, 20 of them in one month. He believes as I that the only erosional control of the river edge is by complete rock ramp. Anything else merely enhances erosion of the bank. The old dike that was made to hold out water is now eroded away and only remnants remain on the S & N end of his property.

On approach to the edge of the high bank there were three Canada geese and one snow goose resting on the shore at the base of the perpendicular cliffs. They immediately left and flew out into the river channel on other side of river. As they left I saw the fully extended wings of these birds and thought what an impressive sight this would have been on movie film. The position of these birds was precarious and if the bank of sand had collapsed which it frequently does, the birds would have been immediately buried by the sand. Measured the length of the middle toe of the Canada goose as 98 mm.

I am recording the information of a band collected ^{yesterday from here} from a Canada goose on the sandbar below: This bird was caught on base of log on sandbar and had been partly consumed by animals. The ^{leg} band is: Avise Fish and Wildlife Service, write Washington - D.C. U.S.A. 578-22-463. A plastic band (adjustable tension) had KB on two sides and measured 45 dia. x 60 length. BK. The goose measured 57 ex. culmen, toe 90, tarsus 100. Leg bone shattered as if by shot.

The yellowlegs were still in area on edge of sandbar and the bank swallows were still concerned with nesting cliff just W of house.

Today checked sand bar next down stream. On sand nearest E bank noted approx 30 holes dug 1" to 4" deep in sand between the bank and 30' out on sand and dug by fox squirrels. Just S of this area were 40 small stones which were turned over, presumably for insects or food. I have observed meadowlarks do this some thing and would attribute this behaviorism to birds rather than mammals. Stones from 3/4" to 2" in diameter. Middle toe of a great blue heron 120 mm