

Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

July 21, 1979

Prepared and left on summer vacation to Casper, Seattle and return (see itinerary next page). Doubled checked for car registration, 04627.1 mileage from 402 Yorkshire, Lawrence at 1:50 P.M. Annette and I made trip. 6303.3 2 redtails along turnpike just out of Lawrence. Most pastures in Lawrence area are green as well as all exposures including hillsides and forests which is unusual for this time of year. Some cultivated fields are brown. No evidence of vegetation drying or burning. 650.3 2 redtail hawks. 650.9 redtail hawk. 661.8 redtail hawk. 689.4 redtail more sky pollution to at least the Flint Hills than I have ever seen before, all the way a hazy atmosphere, clear directly above. 690.3 3 turkey vultures. The ^{merky} pollution eliminates detail on ridges. 694.9 Co. line. Haze so bad that distant ridges grade imperceptibly into sky. Flint Hill greener than I have ever seen. 711.7 Turkey vulture 713.4 Clark's Creek. 718.4 Smoky River, almost full. 722.1 Now N on highway 77. 728.3 first crow. 737.2 Madison Creek, an arm of Melford Reservoir. Lake level high. 750.1 1/3 grouse pheasant along side of road, other birds in reservoir are meadowlark (5) not many mourning dove flew across every 3-6 miles, western kingbird (2) so far. 753.4 begin one mile complete census of birds (5:45 P.M.). 2 western kingbirds, ^{duckweed,} western kingbird, end census. 763.8 Republico River, high and muddy. At Clay Center I was informed that the hazy atmosphere was due to high humidity being brought up from the south. Ponds full and muddy. Hazy condition seems to be more in valleys than ridge tops. Up to now car uses 1 gal. per 10 miles (pulling 17' trailer). 782.4 first night hawk today. Most common bird along way is the barn swallows that is most commonly associated with road culverts and as a result the swallows are more generally distributed in the prairie than they would otherwise be. 809.4 yellow-billed Cuckoo along road and at least 1 mile from any tree. Bobwhite, redwing blackbirds thru area. Actual number of mourning doves. 828.9 Glen Elder. Red-headed woodpecker. 845.5 first striped skunk road kill and first sprinkling system used to water crops. As is usual along highway, there is an increase in mourning doves toward evening (1/2 hr before sundown). 852.0 striped skunk road kill. Red-headed woodpecker at Kerwin. arrived at Kerwin Lake Camp site. at 883.6 9:00 P.M. (NE corner lake)