

bald eagles along the Kaw River, including notes of where they were spotted and their activities while Bee was watching them.

It is one of his desires to have the eight-mile stretch along the river down from Lecompton declared a bald eagle refuge and made "absolutely inviolate to man's trespass."

He said there is good evidence that bald eagles once nested in the Lecompton area and if the area were preserved, Bee believes, the bald eagles might once again return in large numbers to the area.

It is also one of his desires to see a primitive trail 40 miles long preserved along the Wakarusa River. Bee's idea would be to allow no more than two people to traverse the trail each day and access would be allowed only by reservation. This would allow the land to return to the state it was in before white man interfered with the environment.

The garage of Bee's home is being made into a mini-museum of sorts, one that would feature his own collections of bats, arrowheads and other Indian artifacts, copies of petroglyphs, which are drawings carved into rock by ancient civilizations, bones and books, among countless other things that the naturalist has deemed worthwhile.

BEE IS extremely proud of a copy of Ridgeway's Color Key which has never been used. The book was used to identify the colors of birds and Bee said that of the 300 copies published, only his remains unused and the colors still the same bright hues they were when the book was published in 1912.

Bee, who spends time indoors playing classical music on the piano, said he is con-

cerned now with what he calls the "super organism," or the delicate balance of all things in nature, animate and inanimate.

For instance, he said, if you remove the heart from the human body, the entire body is affected and will die.

"It's that same way in the 'super organism,'" he said. "For instance, if you remove the plants from the plant/animal equilibrium, you're going to have death in the community."

He points out the hunting of mountain lions in the Grand Canyon. So extensive were the lions hunted and destroyed, that the deer population, which was hunted by the lions, outgrew its ecosystem and "they died by the thousands."

ALTHOUGH HE retired two years ago, his observations of nature have not. He and his wife Annette plan a trip soon to islands off the Alaskan shore. There he will study the genetics of the mammals that inhabit them, using a sailboat to travel from island to island.

Bee has crossed the globe to observe nature, but there is still much that excites him in the Lawrence area. He has substituted the rivers of Kansas for the mountains of his youth. He said he has "worn out" the local Delaware River, and "the Kaw has as much attraction to me as the Ganges River in India."

"People don't realize what they have around here," he said. "I think you could just set me by an anthill and I could amuse myself for an indefinite and unwearing amount of time."

