

Oak Flats Forest Camp Grounds, Approx 4 mi. E Superior, Pinal Co., Arizona  
 Dec. 18, 1983

On short 1 hour hike noted 18 Oregon junco (one group), 2 brown towhees, 1 scrub jay, 3 raven, tracks of black-tailed jack rabbit, cottontail rabbit, gray fox, coyote, all numerous. No deer tracks. Left on 60 to 70 and thence SE on 70 to Safford, thence E to Lordsburg, where we camped a few miles SE of town along 1-10. Along this route in the valley Germamo - Eden - Safford noted 5 rough-legged hawks and 2 redtails. Also 6 sparrow hawks, 18 meadow-larks, 3 shrike, 12 mourning doves, and some other birds not identified. The area from Safford to Lordsburg had 7 redtails, 5 sparrow hawks, 20 meadowlarks and 15 mourning doves. There is a decided increase in numbers of birds in these lower valleys. The area from Duncan to Lordsburg is a wide valley with almost flat alluvial slopes and dominated with creosote bushes. As one goes S there is a change in degree of slope of valley and vegetation changes to grass, then yucca and shrubs. Along the entire Gila River Valley are fields of cotton. There were two or three hills with isolated stands of saguaro (5 exposure) and with great intervals without this plant.

From this point on notes from recorder at 36 425.8 approx. 5 1/10 mi. beyond Franklin on 70 going S.E. at this mileage, marsh hawk, 2 mourning doves and 4 meadowlarks. 427.7 New Mexico. 488.7 at mile post 1, redtail. 429.2 redtail. 430.6 sparrow hawk, redtail. This valley is a wide almost flat valley and dominated with creosote bush. Now in area where slope of valley increases and creosote disappears and area becomes grassland and sparse shrub. 441.4 redtail, sparrow hawk. 444.1 redtail. Now landscape is <sup>dominated</sup> by stemmed yucca and <sup>other</sup> low shrubs. 446.0 marsh hawk. This is one of the flattest valleys between <sup>desert</sup> 2 ranges I have ever seen. I would not be surprised if there is a slight alluvial grade to this valley on both sides, rather than a flat lake bed. Checked odometer with road mile post. To correct times odometer readings in notes by 1/10 mile. (Example):

10.0 → 20.0 = 10 miles from two points.

1/10 × 10 = 1 mile

1 mile + 10 miles = 11 miles (corrected distance between 10 and 20 miles.)

453.1 redtail. 456.2 redtail. 457.0

continued to 464.8 to SW of Lordsburg on Interstate 10 where we camped just SW of an overpass. 2 white-crowned sparrows here.