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# Journal of Paradocs, volume 1, January 28, 1950 - July 2, 1950

Theodore M. Sperry

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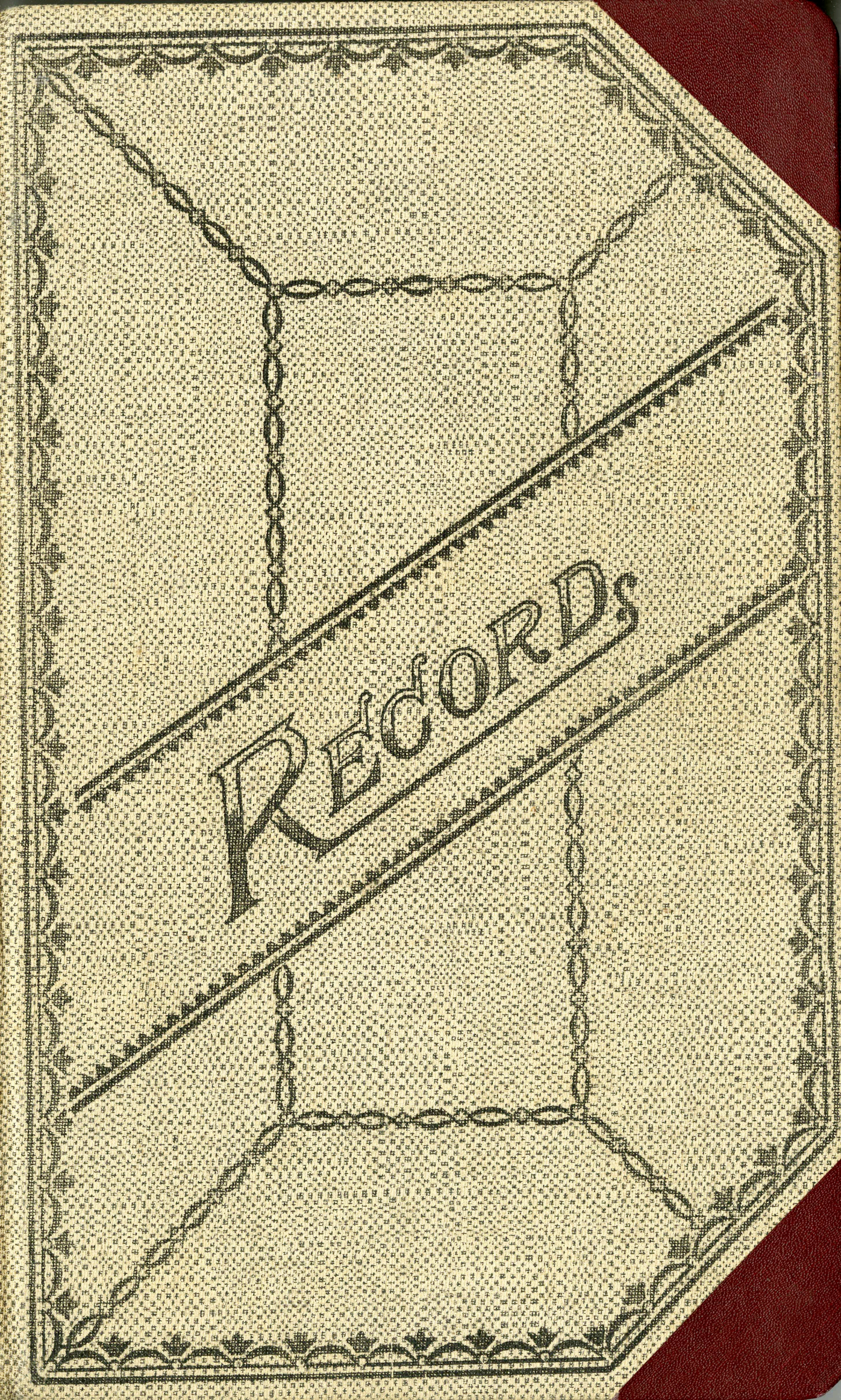
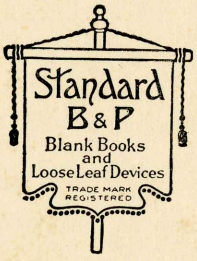

RECORDS

# Journal of Paradocs

## Volume 1

28 January, 1950 to 2 July, 1950.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# Journal of Paradocs.

28 January, 1950.

I, Theodore M. Sperry, being of sound body and sane mind on this Saturday evening in January, should know better than to start a Journal of this kind. Mayhap, I am not so sane after all.

Paradocs is a small tract of land near the southwestern boundary of Pittsburg, Kansas, and is, we hope, the first stage in the fulfillment of a dream. Most persons, I suppose, have their dream houses, and it is on this tract that we hope to build ours.

Of course, if we really had our choice, we would have a tract of 40 acres, or 160 acres, or better yet, a square mile, located so as to include a stream, a lake, a forest tract, a swamp, and a sizable tract of prairie, located so as to assure privacy and still be conveniently close to our place of work.

But to be realistic - or at least slightly so - about a place of our own, we know that no such place exists around Pittsburg, and that even if it did, we couldn't afford it and we wouldn't have time or facilities to properly care for such a place. Thus it is that after about 3½ years in Pittsburg — one and one-half years for Lyz - we found ourselves in a position to look around for a permanent home

site.

We already had "Chanose", - the house and lot at 419 Fieldcrest Drive in Pittsburg - and altho we had talked of some changes which might be made to convert the place into a permanent residence, we had decided that even at best much imagination would be necessary to bridge the gap between what could be developed here (at Chanose) and that which we would like.

So on one autumn Sunday last year we drove up one street and down another looking at vacant lots, - and at homes on built-up lots, too - including a rather wild looking place on Davis College just back of Dr. Claude ~~Mc~~ Leist's place. We even ventured into the area a bit, only to discover a small house, possibly occupied, on the back part of the area. But in general the place seemed uncared for and in many spots somewhat trashy. There were, however, quite a number of large trees on the area, and a fair sized "pond" with no water in it on the back part of the lot.

Later we stopped at the Leist's to inquire as to what they might know of the place. They had suggested on a previous occasion that it would be nice if we could obtain the place, altho they did not know whether or not it was for sale. They said it belonged to Mr. H. B. Kumm, a Pitts-

burg real estate and insurance agent. It was his daughter, Mary Kumm, who had been secretary of the Pittsburg Garden Club where I first met her, who had a small gift shop on west 5th St. Mr. Kumm had his office back of the gift shop, and we had already made his acquaintance by taking out some insurance from him.

They also said that he did not live in the small house which apparently was used only for storage purposes, and that there was no objection to our visiting the property. They took us back thru their own and adjacent property and went around over the area with us. In addition to the little house, there were a couple of sheds, a Chick Sale structure, an open shelter, very crudely made, and various piles of stone, bricks, brush, etc. The general vegetation cover was scattered trees and shrubs with the "pond" toward the back (but in front of the little house) and with a more or less open area of "broom sedge" in the central front part of the tract. There were a couple of drives into the area from the street, but at present only one of them (the south one) was open.

Already it was evident that the place had considerable possibilities as a homesite and "wild life area", and the more we looked at it the better we liked it.

Some time later, early in December, I think, we paid a visit to Mr. Kumm at his

office to inquire about the place and to learn the possibility as to its purchase. There we were given some hope. Mr. Kumm had owned quite a bit of the ground on the east side of College and had, from time to time, sold various lots from both the north and south ends of the tract, the last only rather recently, until he now had only this one tract of some 200 foot frontage left. He was still undecided as to whether he wanted to sell this last piece of land. It was evident that he had wanted to develop that as his own dream place, and that the development of the "pond" and drives were efforts toward the fullfillment of his plans. In selling the various lots, he had retained the choicest part for himself. We were told that he had already had various offers for parts or all of the place, but he said that if he sold at all, he wished to sell it as a single tract with the hope that it would remain intact as a single unit. The prices of lots in the area were variable depending on depth and location, but prices of $15.00 per front foot were common for good locations, higher for the choicest places.

We left with the understanding that we might inquire again after Christmas after various holiday ~~and~~ activities if we were interested.

During the next few days we thought it over and decided that even tho the price was higher than we wanted to pay, still

the place came much more nearly being what we wanted than anything else we had seen, and that we probably wouldn't have a chance nearly as good as this in the future. So one day we called him and ~~asked if~~ told him we would like to purchase the place if he decided to sell. We obtained a verbal promise from him that he would not sell the place without first contacting us. This constituted an option on the place at ~~his~~ price, and at least gave us a chance to buy it, if the price was right.

Just before Christmas we received a note from Mr. Kumm — the note had been delayed about a week in the Christmas mail rush — asking us to stop in if we wanted to buy the place. We didn't have time then, but called him to tell him we had just received his note, and would a day or two after Christmas be satisfactory?

It was on the afternoon of December 28, 1949 that we again visited Mr. Kumm, and were told that we could have the place at $20.00 per front foot. $20.00 times 209.58 front feet equaled $4191.60. Wups! This was more than we had figured on. But after some hemming and hawing, Mr. Kumm came down to an even $4000.00 for the place and we decided that one couldn't very well develop a dream place without being somewhat foolish about it, so we bought it then and there, - $1000.00 cash and the rest on terms. The initial contract was a masterpiece of informality in the way that Mr. Kumm punched it out on

the typewriter while we were waiting. But at least it served the purpose.

Later that afternoon we went out to make our first visit to our new piece of property.

The next couple of weeks were spent in determining a name for the place, the details of which will be noted, I hope, by Dyp. There was a whole page full of proposed names. We finally settled for "Paradocs" for the name of the tract, - the present and future house, and the pond - each having in addition their own names.

For the most part, my own narratives will be concerned with the ground and its biota. I anticipate that Dyp will deal considerably with the buildings as well as with the area in general.

My first project will be something like an adequate description of the area. I anticipate that this will take much of the first year of activity - identifying and locating the various plants and animals to be found on the area. I hope to make a complete herbarium collection of the plants of the area.

Thus far, I have made a preliminary map of the area - the distances determined largely by pacing - which will serve until a measured map can be constructed. A copy of this preliminary map is shown on pages 8 and 9 of this journal.

I had hoped here to record some of the bird observations made on Paradocs to date, but I find that my notes are

apparently at school, so these will have to be recorded later.

Let me note now, therefore, today's activities (28 January) on Paradocs. Having purchased during the afternoon a can of "Tree Tanglefoot" for 81¢ at Kelso Feed Co., we went out with the purpose of banding the elm trees against excessive canker worm damage. It is said that the wingless female adults ascend the trees on warm nights early in the spring, and as the present winter has been unusually mild (a record high January temperature of 82°F. was reported a few days ago), it has been stated in the papers that canker worms activity has already been observed. I had already noted that there were 3 large elms and half a dozen smaller ones on the area, so that I hoped the one (pound?) can would be sufficient for the job. The day was sunny, moderately warm for January, and quite windy. I had scarcely started on the first tree before Dr. & Mrs. Leist came over for a visit. I continued my job while we talked. It soon became evident that my one can of stickum wouldn't be enough. Dr. Leist said he had most of a can left, since he had had only one moderately small tree to band. He left to bring me the remainder, but in the meanwhile we decided to visit the Leists to see Mrs. Leist's large red Amaryllis which was in full flower at this time. The Amaryllis really was one of the largest and most beautiful I had seen. It had a huge flowering stalk, — I believe she said 28 inches high, — on top

Vacant

Jeffries property
1470 S. College.

W
S ↑ → N
E

Preliminary survey of "Paradocs"

Scale:- 1 cm. = 10 ft.
8 January, 1950.

College 209.58 ft.

fence fence

Meisler property

220.35 ft.

drive

"pond"
Ryfolamere

fence

gate

"Wayback"
porch
porch

stone chimney

gate fence 161.58 ft.

C. M. Leist property

Hull property

S Kidmore's property

Messenger's property



College

gate fence iron pin.

Brown's property
1405 S. College.

wood trellis fence. 225.6 ft.

drive

brick pile

shelter

shed #1

iron pin

shed #2

"Chick Sale" bldg.

iron pin

48 ft. fence

Wheeler property

of which were 3 huge blossoms. We soon returned to Paradocs after paying for the banding material, and I banded the third large elm and finished a small tree — having done half the job with the last of the contents of the first can. I still have a little material left in the second can, but not enough to complete the rest of the elms on the area. We left when I had finished this first small tree, and the sun was getting low in the west and we were beginning to get cold. Dyp drove. I was too gummed up with the tanglefoot.

While doing the banding job, I saw a Starling fly over the area — the first I think I have noted at Paradocs. I also heard a Red-shouldered Hawk calling — a sound I always love to hear. There was the usual flock of English Sparrows which visited briefly from a neighboring house, a few Juncos singing in the trees and brush, and the cardinals which regularly occur around the hedge between Paradocs and the Leist's.

These cardinals remind me of the wall paper we saw in the window of a store in town today which included as a prominent part of the decorative motif, Blue Jays which were colored a bright cardinal red! Verily, John Kieran would call that a smattering of ignorance.

Looks like I've done ~~not~~ right well in getting this journal started. I don't promise to do as well on other days.

Dec. 8.

Sunday morning, January 29, 1950

Have just read the first ten pages of this journal with deep satisfaction and some amusement. Of course Theodore M. Sperry is not of sound mind to start such a journal as this, nor to acquire The Paradors in the first place, nor to expect me to lend a hand regularly in inscribing these pages. But it's a quality of mind I love anyway because it matches mine.

As to that square mile you discussed back there on page one, Derryl, don't you remember it was to have one big hill (or small mountain) with one precipitous rock cliff with at least a part of its face continuously shaded, cool and dripping? There was also to be a mile of seacoast, including a rugged rocky stretch of shore, a long low stretch of sandy beach, and a bit of salt marsh. And that stream was to be fed in one place by a spring - remember all these things? There was to be a bit of dry sand for desert plants, too. I don't know whatever.

So, being of unsound mind (at least not of the solid sensible type of mind so many expect of poor old Homo sapiens) I am started on my scribbling, too, about this and that at The Paradors.

Derryl objects to the "The", so hereafter it's Paradors without "The".

The size of the area (a bit more than an acre) and its unusual topography, a "hill" and a "valley" with a "pond" in it, led me to believe that it would be completely beyond the means of professorial salaries, but that we could have the pleasure of dreaming and talking and then settle down on some small ordinary city lot and concentrate our pleasure on the house-to-be itself. But while we were in Mr. Kumm's office on January 28, 1949 (December), it was obvious that Derryl wanted the area badly enough to be foolish enough to pay more than we can afford to pay. Reflecting on the

the unusual natural advantages of the tract, the small cottage already there with it's stone fireplace, said to have been built by Mr. Kumm himself, and the fact that we have a reasonably new home practically paid for, I decided to throw financial caution (a thing which kept Dad from ever venturing and therefore, perhaps, from ever reaping possible harvests) to the winds and sign with Derryl a contract, which I felt would result in enough genuine pleasure in living just to have the lovely spot itself, whether we build or not, to justify the risks involved. Our enjoyment has already paid fruitful dividends.

One can actually get out of sight of the other on this acre without hiding behind bushes, which gives the illusion of greater space than there really is. We have long wanted space and privacy, a "wild-life refuge", and the impossible, i.e., being out of sight and sound of our neighbor's auto horns, radios, and barking dogs. This wonderful Paradox does not give us the latter, but it will give us a modest amount of the first two.

The fact that Mr. Kumm wanted the area kept intact, and regarded it as the choicest part of his holding, makes us feel rather privileged in having it. Mr. Meister who owns the next lot south wanted to buy an additional twenty-five feet. Another person, whose name I've forgotten, wanted to buy the area and divide it to build a home for his own family and one for his parents. Mr. Kumm did not like these ideas. I feel that he is pleased to sell it to us because he knows we will keep it intact and not spoil, if we can help it, its natural beauty. He admitted that he, too, has dreamed about this area. To me it gives added significance that someone else really cared about it as a homesite and wanted its integrety preserved.

Our first "caller" was a Mrs., or Miss (I don't know exactly which) Messenger, who came over one afternoon when we were there, out of sheer curiosity to see what was going on on the "old main place". She was very loquacious with Derryl, but looked at me with a jaundiced fishy eye, the usual attitude of shallow women toward other women. She obviously knows little biology — described the singing of a beautiful "Nightingale" (Mockingbird). She said "I'd fill that hole. It breeds mosquitoes." Gentle(?) hint, which we, of course, have no intention of following. We, of course, will be a Paradox to such as her.

But not to our delightful neighbors over the back fence, Dr. and Mrs. Geist. We have a gate planned in the line fence for easy going back and forth. Mrs. Geist does not want the "hole" filled, nor the place "landscaped" and "improved". Besides they are both very good people and we appreciate having such fine neighbors. They were our second callers yesterday afternoon - Mrs. Geist (and Dr., too) as curious as Sam to get into 'S Way Back - Dr. Geist making his 'Dr. Geist'-like remarks and Mrs. Geist showing her unjealous, spontaneous, whole-hearted appreciation and enjoyment. They are a wonderful couple. At their house later we saw a truly magnificent cluster of three "Amaryllis" red Amaryllises and a tulip almost out - also an Azalea, which recalled ravishing memories of Charleston, S.C., in April, 1935, with Esther Biggs in Savinia with it's little Paddock squatting on the instrument board - beautiful scenery in the southern Appalachians on wet days - lacey white Dogwood draped on mountain slopes - the enchanting Middleton and Magnolia on the Ashley at Charleston - long conversations with Esther - Esther's

quoting poetry – all these flashed through my mind with other vivid details and ended with the thought that we must go there together some day. Charleston itself is a charming city–quite uniquely itself.

Mr. Meister is reportedly planning to begin construction on his house March 1. That will help us in determining the site for Ryldys and planning the plantings near it.

That reminds me of the fun we have had in trying to decide on names for the area and the various local spots and buildings (present or planned) within it. "Paradocs" (with "cs" not "x") was an inspiration. It's the most appropriate from several we considered for more than one reason. First of all it's a paradox that we were able to find such a nearly ideal place and second that we have it. Furthermore we two are a pair of "docs". It can be said, too, that the way we keep the place will be a paradox to certain kinds of neighbors. It will, no doubt, be a paradox if we can eventually build the "paper house" which we will call "Ryldys". It's a paradox as to whether the "pond" will be filled or empty. A final note on the name is that Webster says that a paradox is "seemingly opposed to common sense". We don't claim to have too much common sense – maybe we have some uncommon sense to make up for it – so, not only are we a pair of docs but also a paradox.

Since the stone fireplace (with cottage attached) is away back on the farthest side from College and since the roof of the attached cottage is swayed down in the middle on the west edge, we call that building "'S Wayback".

A mere is a lake or pool. We call the pond "Ryldamere" optimistically in the hope that

water will be there at least more than half the time.

Other areas will no doubt be named as occasion arises and suitable names are found.

We are looking forward to the time within the next couple of months when we can get 'S Wayback into condition to live in and spend some time living there. Then we can invite house guests in Pittsburg for the first time, since we can have a place for them to sleep and a place we hope they can enjoy. Those who love nature will enjoy it - others may in spite of it.

This reminds me of the hole in the dead limb on the big Maple, which I hope was made by a squirrel. Yesterday I saw a beautiful brilliantly red male Cardinal and a busy little Black-capped Chickadee. Paradocs is said to be a good place for birds. It should be with all the trees, shrubs and the water.

I revel in the glory of all the pleasure we are going to have on our paradoxical acre.

Doc S.

29 January, 1950.

Sorry, Dyc, but squirrels ordinarily don't make holes, tho they frequently occupy old holes which they find. About the best they can do in remodeling is to fill in unwanted space with leaves (Oak leaves preferred) or grass to make the cavity as cozy as possible. The hole looks like it was constructed by a Woodpecker - probably a flicker - and the best we can hope for is that it is occupied by a squirrel. One squirrel has so far been observed once on the area. I took it to be a Fox Squirrel, but I didn't get a very good

look at it at that time. It might have been a gray. For Squirrels are a little large for flicker holes. Even the smaller gray Squirrels find these holes snug. Flying Squirrels agree that they are just the right size. I wonder if Flying Squirrels are supposed to occur in this area. Time out! Let's see! —— yes: Anthony lists them from the eastern edge of Kansas.

I must go out to Paradocs now to take some more suet for the animal life. The pieces I put out about a week ago have all disappeared. I wonder what is getting them. Squirrels, maybe? Some of them looked as if cardinals had been pecking at them, but I doubt that cardinals would cause the complete and quick disappearance of the rather large pieces I left there. I really didn't have them very well fastened then. I'll try to anchor them a bit more securely this time.

Doc. S.

Same day.

Well, Derryl, correction sustained — but why don't squirrels make holes? They crack nuts.

Doc S.

Still 29 January. Evening now.

Arriving at Paradocs we found Mr. Kumm in 'S Way back (he doesn't know our name for the building) where he was burning some old records of the loan company. He is gradually cleaning up some of the things stored there. He invited us inside, our first look into the building, where it was slightly warm — a welcome relief from the ~~frightening~~ biting cold north wind outside.

The building was certainly in need of a lot of cleaning up. But it showed that it had once been lived in - probably for only short periods at a time, - and that it could be made a most attractive place with the proper amount of work expended on it. It had a lovely stone fireplace which apparently worked beautifully. It was in this fireplace that Mr. Kumm was burning the records.

It was a two-roomed affair, the east room being the larger main room, but with the west room perhaps two-thirds the size of the east one. This room had been arranged as a workshop with a long bench on the west wall, but it was now used mostly for storage. Mr. Kumm pointed out that there was a leak in the roof of this room, but none in the roof of the main room.

We didn't remain very long. I wanted to identify a small bird I had noted outside, and to get the pair of suet put up. I then returned to the car to read this journal and to make notes on the arrangement of construction of 'S Wayback.

Before noting today's observations at Paradox, let me first record previous observations made on the area - observations recorded on a slip of paper which I picked up from school on our way back from Paradox. My first recorded observation on Paradox was on:-

31 December, 1949.

As I recall, the ~~[illegible]~~ was moderately

warm and sunny. In an hour, more or less, during the afternoon, I listed

Slate-colored Junco
Eastern Cardinal
Eastern Redwing
English Sparrow
Northern Flicker
~~Black-capped~~ Carolina Chickadee
Barred Owl — heard, not seen.
Eastern Crow - heard, not seen.

28 Dec. 1955 Carolina Chickadee see p. 100

Dyp ~~sighted~~ up a Cottontail rabbit which I didn't see.

On the following day:-

1 January, 1950

I spent most of my time on a bird hike along Cow Creek where I listed 34 species of birds. But I stopped briefly at Paradocs late in the afternoon where I failed to find any animals of any kind. The afternoon was mostly cloudy and cool with a light northerly wind.

My next record is on:-

6 January, 1950,

the day I saw the Fox (?) Squirrel in one of the big Cottonwoods when I first drove into ~~the~~ Paradocs. I got out of the car to look at it further, but I ~~did~~ didn't see it again. I don't know where it disappeared to. A few moments later we saw a couple of Eastern Robins in the top of the big elm at the front of the lot.

On 8 January, 1950

we recorded ~~Black-capped~~ Carolina Chickadee
English Sparrow
Tufted Titmouse
Eastern Cardinal

but I don't seem to remember much about this visit. Wait a minute! This was Sunday. I guess this was the day I made my measurements for the preliminary sketch map shown on pages 8 and 9. If so, the day was again warm and sunny, but a bit windy.

A brief visit on

15 January, 1950

netted a record of Cardinals only.

A week later, on

22 January, 1950,

I put out the first piece of suet, stuck in the notch of a small branch of a Black cherry. At this time Slate-colored Juncos and 10 or 12 Eastern Cardinals were observed. I also made note of a mat of mosses which were bearing sporophytes located under the Pin Oak on the west side of 'B Wayback. I had noticed these before, but had not previously made a record of them. I have not yet identified them, but should do so before it's too late. I also don't know when the sporophytes were produced, but they appeared to have been there for some time.

On the following day,

23 January, 1950

I placed another 4 or 5 pieces of suet around in similar locations over the area. The first one had apparently been pecked at a few times by some bird. On this visit, only Cardinals were seen.

On 27 January, 1950

only Cardinals and English Sparrows were observed. It was on this date that it was

found that most of the suet had disappeared. There were still two pieces left, - the original one in the Black Cherry and a piece in a forked tree (I didn't notice the species) on the west side of shed No. 2. Both pieces had been pecked at somewhat, but not much had been eaten.

(Silver Maple)

By the way, dusty earth in front of a hole on the west side of shed no. 1 indicates that the area under the floor of that shed is apparently being used extensively by some animal. I haven't yet investigated carefully to determine the kind. This was observed on one of our first visits to Paradocs.

The observations made on 28 January have already been recorded. Today (the 29th) I noted a ~~Black-capped~~ Carolina Chickadee, several English Sparrows, and a pair of Cardinals at Paradocs. I put out a fresh piece of suet, wiring it on to a dead branch of a fruit (apple?) tree just west of 3 Wayback. The two remaining old pieces of suet had completely disappeared.

Then I examined the tanglefoot bands on the elms. One band had caught a wingless and a winged insect - which I assume were female and male Canker worm adults, respectively. This was the big elm near the north end of Ryldamere (= the "pond"). (Sorry for this repetition, Dyo. It's just the teacher in me showing up in my narrative).

The big elm on the east edge of Paradocs had caught a winged form, as had also the small elm on the west edge of

Ryldamere. The big elm on the west end of Paradocs had trapped a wingless form only. These had presumably been trapped early last night while the weather was still relatively warm. Sometime during the night a cold front came by, bringing with it much very cold wind and a few flurries of snow. This presumably stopped canker worm activity for the present. But the fact that some were trapped last night suggests that the tanglefoot application may already be too late — that many females may already have climbed to the branches to lay their eggs during some of the warm evenings we have had within the past week or two. We shall probably not now know until the young larvae begin feeding heavily late in May or during June.

Except for scattered forgotten observations or reflections, this writing should bring the Journal up to date so far as my narrations are concerned.

Doc. S.

31 January, 1950

One of the scattered forgotten observations concerns the water in Ryldamere. When we first visited Paradocs in December, it was dry. But sometime during January — the date was not recorded — some 3 to 5 inches of water was noted. This water has remained to the present time. The exact depth has not been measured but from the deepest spot, which seems to be somewhat south of the center of

Ryldamere, the slope of the bottom is very gradual out to the edges. About 3/4ths of the bottom is now covered with at least some water, the dry areas being all around the edges and a sizable area on the north end. A rather large pile of brush and trash near the center now forms a very poor island in the water.

The water has frozen and thawed several times ~~several times~~ since it occurred, being about half frozen over in irregular patterns during the visits on the 28th and 29th of January.

Today it was completely frozen over, with a thin layer of packed sime and snow covering the ice. I believe this is the second time I have seen it completely frozen. I looked for bird and mammal tracks on the smooth surface, but saw none. Perhaps the snow surface is too firm to record such light tracks as might be made by mice or mice. Incidentally, no human tracks were observed anyplace on Paradoxo.

Our visit today was a brief one, made after we had completed second semester enrolment at 5 P.M. Our animal observation was limited to a single male cardinal which investigated our activities from his vantage place in the privet (?) hedge on the east side of 3 Wayback.

But we also commented on the interesting, graceful patterns formed by the large limbs of the cottonwoods at the south end of Ryldamere, noting that they seemed to be less high, more spread out, and less stiff

in appearance here as compared with those with which we were familiar in Illinois. We also noted the strange and interesting pattern formed by a very large limb of a Black Cherry located at the southwest corner of Rylolamere.

Doc. S.

P.S. The piece of suet wired to the limb of the apple (?) tree on Sunday was still there. It had been considerably pecked at by birds, but no rodent tooth marks were observed.

Doc. S.

3 February, 1980

A cold air mass rather effectively prevented visits to Paradocs the past three days. A layer of ice has made travel somewhat hazardous. Today, however, was sunny and very pleasant, still cool but warm enough during the afternoon to melt the icy cover and thaw the upper layers of the soil. Yesterday (Groundhog Day) was sunny but cold. The Meadowlarks were singing cheerily around Chanoc this morning.

Late this afternoon - after 5 PM - we made a short visit to Paradocs where we saw several Cardinals (Probably English Sp.) and an unidentified sparrow. An additional winged insect (cankerworm?) was caught in the tanglefoot of the big elm on the eastern edge of the area. There was no change on the bands of the other elms.

The suet on the apple (?) was still in place but had been much pecked at. It was necessary to tighten the wire holding it, so much

of the suet had been eaten.

Doc. S.

P.S. The water in Ryldamere was still frozen except for a couple of very small spots near the center.

Doc. S.

4 February, 1950.

Spent 15 minutes at Paradocs at noon today, - a perfectly lovely sunny early spring day. The Cardinals were singing their spring song. In addition there were English Sparrows, Tufted Titmice, ~~Black-capped~~ Carolina Chickadees, and a Carolina Wren, the latter working over the bark of a Willow tree. A large fly lit on the back of my neck. One of the Titmice flew into the old apple (?) tree and was obviously interested in the piece of suet on it, but I was standing too close to it, so he gave up the idea for the present. There were gentle rustlings in the leaves, presumably caused by the bulb plants sending up their vertical green leaves. Some of these leaves have been visible ever since our first visit, and probably grow a bit more every time the weather gets warm.

correction 29 Dec. 1955

There was still an ice cover over Ryldamere, but it was melting fast and there were several small holes in the ice. Some large dog tracks were visible in the soft cinders of the drive - noticed both yesterday and today. These may very likely have been put there by the large black & white ~~yes~~ dog across the street.

Doc. S.

3 February, 1950

On our way to Paradocs this afternoon late we saw a brilliant sundog north of the sun. It disappeared shortly and a thin alto-cumulus cloud of luminous whiteness spread over that half the sky in the form of a giant wing. The following lines were put together about these phenomena:

We wend our way to Paradocs
And watch the western sky.
The sundog there in silence mocks
The fact it's going to die.

A cloud the shape of angel's wing
Is spreading out among a host
Of other clouds. It seems to bring
The thought that it's the sundog's ghost.

Doc S.

4 February, 1950 (again).

Two more visits were made to Paradocs today, - one in the middle of the afternoon for about an hour, and one during the hour at sunset. On both occasions a Downy Woodpecker was observed in addition to some of the other species listed earlier. Altho seen in various trees, it seemed to be partial to the Cottonwoods. During the afternoon a Red-shouldered Hawk was heard calling to the southwest, and a Flicker was heard nearby, but neither of these was seen.

Mole runways, apparently recently made, were observed in the very southeastern corner of the area, running from the property on the south to the property on the east.

Auto tracks were observed where a

car had driven down the drive and turned around in the 'B Wayback "Y."

Melting of the ice in Ryeldamere continued until 1/4th or 1/3rd of the area was open water. The melting ceased in the middle of the afternoon, just as soon as the shadows of the trees became long enough to cover the area, causing the sun to lose its maximum intensity.

During the afternoon ~~Tree~~ "Tree Tanglefoot" was placed around 8 more medium-sized elms, making a total of 12 banded elms on the area. The band around the large west elm was reinforced by an additional amount of the goopy stuff, as the original band was rather narrow and thin. There were several small elms with branches lower than 6 feet that were not banded, since bands below this height are not practical (- too much chance of getting the sticky material on one's clothes or hands! -). Another pound can of the tanglefoot was used in this banding. Afterwards, still another elm was found which should have been banded, but it won't be unless I get some more of the high-priced stuff. If a severe outbreak of cankerworms should develop, the other two large elms should also have their bands reinforced with additional tanglefoot.

On the last visit of the day I made the first plant collection - a group of 10 twigs of trees. These will not be identified at present, but will be put in press for future reference. Each tree from which a collection was made was marked with a small tag, and it is planned to make

one or more additional collections from these same trees so as to obtain specimens in flowering, leafy and fruiting stages as well as in the winter condition. I am not at all sure of the identification of some of the trees from which the collections were made, but the tentative list will be recorded as soon as it is available. I don't have the information on hand as I write this. (See 18 Feb.) In addition to the 10 tree specimens, 2 collections of mosses bearing sporophytes were also made, - one from the south end of Ryldamere, the other from soil on the west side of 'S Wayback.

Doc. S.

5 February, 1950

The day is gray, cloudy and windy, with moderate temperature. A light rain developed later in the afternoon. Paradox was visited briefly shortly after noon. Fresh car tracks and footprints leading to 'S Wayback indicated that Mr. Kamm had probably visited sometime during the morning.

A cursory examination of some of the banded elms revealed a few additional winged insects and at least one wingless individual caught in the bands, both on the trees which had been banded earlier and on those banded yesterday. Some of the tree bands had not trapped any insects.

Ryldamere was about one-quarter covered with ice in irregular patterns. The level of the water had dropped somewhat, perhaps by as much as one-third. I don't

know whether this was due to evaporation by the strong south winds, or whether the water was soaking into the soil following its thawing out yesterday.

No birds were seen during today's brief visit.

Doc. S.

12 February, 1950.

There are three separate records to be made today concerning the past week. In a very busy seven-day period, I found time for three rather short visits to Paradocs, but have not found time to record them until now. (I really don't have time now, but I am taking it anyway).

The first visit was after 5 P.M. on Thursday, 9 February, 1950

Upon first driving into the drive, a Mourning Dove was observed walking around the "Y" of the drive near 'S Waybak. It was apparently pecking at small gravel, as I doubt that there were many seeds present at that place. It remained for several minutes, even after I got out of the car, but it flew as I reached the south end of Ryeldamere. This is the first record we have for this bird at Paradocs.

Other birds seen during the visit were Cardinals and a Carolina Wren, the latter in the shrubs on the east side of 'S Wayback. I should have mentioned that altho the record of Carolina Wren on 4 February was the initial record of the species in this journal, the bird was first seen on the area on one of our first visits last year, before there was any thought of kee-

ing tracks of the dates.

During the visit of 9 Feb., Starlings and Robins were heard in the vicinity, but were not seen.

The water level in Ryeldamere was about the same as on the 5th, or perhaps slightly less. The ice was gone, probably had been since the 6th.

An examination of the bands on the elms showed the presence of more cankerworms, both winged (males) and wingless (females), together with a very few insects of other kinds. The proportion of males to females in the bands appeared to be 4 or 5 to 1. Almost every banded tree had trapped cankerworms of both sexes, or at least males, but in no place would they be considered abundant or frequent. Common would be the word.

The suet on the apple(?) tree had been very much pecked at and had become loose under the wire holding it. I found a nail which could be used to twist the wire to tighten it.

Almost each visit to Paradocs, the Protococcus on the north side of the trees seems to be brighter and greener. There seems to be some on almost every tree, but it is on the larger trees that it seems to completely hide the bark beneath it.

The many Daffodil and/or narcissus bulbs planted by Mr. Kumm around 'S Waybacks and elsewhere on the area were showing marked growth since my last visit. They had been more or less evident all winter, but now the

more advanced were an inch or two high. Others which had not previously been evident were now beginning to show – especially along a path north of 3 Wayback. The growths here showed that the path was cutting across some of these plantings, but that it probably had been routed around them earlier and could be easily rerouted there again, but the use of bricks or stones as a border. Both of these had been used for borders in the immediate vicinity, but for some reason there were none to indicate the position of this row of bulb plants.

So with this in mind, I collected a dozen bricks, more or less, from along the fence and from the brick pile and laid them on edge ~~around~~ along the row of bulbs to create a west edge to the path between 3 Wayback and Shed #1. There was already present an east edge to this path, located beneath the edge of the privet (?) hedge.

Again for about half an hour after 5 P.M. on Friday, 10 February, 1950

I visited Paradocs where I observed a group of 5 Starlings flying over the area, and some 12 or 14 Cardinals flying from the privet (?) hedge to some trees + shrubs in the Hall property. I had known there were several cardinals in the vicinity, but I was not aware that there were so many. This estimate is not an accurate count, but I should say that the figure is conservative. The Carolina Wren was also observed. In addition, the following birds were heard in the vicinity

but were not seen:- ~~B.~~ Carolina C. Chickadee, Robin, Crows, English Sparrows.

A large white dog, marked with a few black spots (including ears, I believe) was running around the area as if hunting for a lost rabbit, and at one time came in along the north edge of the lot for a few moments, but he soon returned to neighboring lots to the north and east.

There were many feathers of a male Cardinal on the ground among the shrubs in front of 'S Wayback - so many as to indicate that the bird must have been killed. No fleshy parts of the bird were found, however, and I could detect no marks which would identify the killer. My best guess would be a cat, but I have nothing to substantiate the guess.

This reminds me that ever since the first careful inspection of the area on 31 Dec., there have been several wing and tail feathers of a male bluebird on the ground beneath the large elm near the northwest "corner" of Byldamere. The feathers appeared sufficiently weathered to indicate that the attack (quite possibly a kill) had probably occurred late in the autumn - perhaps sometime in November.

Then on yesterday, which was Saturday, 11 February, 1950, I visited again for 20 minutes, more or less, shortly after noon. The weather ~~was again~~ had been sunny and pleasant on Thursday afternoon ~~morning~~ and Friday, but by noon on Saturday it was becoming overcast with ~~cirro~~ alto-stratus thin enough so that the sun could

be seen than them. The following list of birds was seen:- Tufted Titmouse
Cardinal
Blue Jay
B-c. Chickadee
English Sparrow
E. Bluebird
Downy Woodpecker.

also the Bluebird! 29 Dec. 1955.

The Blue Jay is a new species on the Paradocs list - the thirteenth species seen on the area. Three others have been heard in the vicinity, but have not yet been seen. The "official" Paradocs bird list will follow the criteria which I have used ever since we lived at "Oneonta" (on Lake Monona, Madison, Wisconsin). These are the birds seen on, over, or from the area - in this case, within the boundaries of Paradocs. The adoption of the "from" was necessary at Oneonta so that the various waterbirds on the lake could be counted. At Paradocs, this will add hawks and owls flying over the nearby Cow Creek valley but not actually over the area itself. The birds heard in the area but not seen have not been included on any "official" list, but are always noted as an "appendix" to the list. This plan was adopted since in certain cases it is very difficult - if not impossible - to definitely identify a species by song alone. We will have to admit, however, that there are exceptions to this principle, in which the bird can be more accurately identified from a song record than from the sight record (as in Flycatchers + Meadowlarks).

For the first time, birds were actually seen feeding on the piece of suet attached to the apple (?) tree. I was standing near Ryldamere west of Shed #1 when I observed a Tufted Titmouse and two Chickadees in the trees along the edge of Ryldamere. All three seemed to have an eye cocked on that piece of suet. The Titmouse, being the larger species seemed to have priority. It worked its way, a few feet at a time, until finally it landed on the side of the suet where it clung while it pecked at the top of the piece. It fed there for perhaps half a minute before flying up into the branches of the tree. Then one of the Chickadees followed a similar procedure, coming in somewhat lower in the branches on its way to the suet. It clung to the limb just below the suet and fed from the bottom of the piece, - again for about half a minute. Then it flew up into the branches and the second patiently waiting Chickadee repeated the process. This bird, ~~ca~~however, lit on the side of the suet, but it also fed from near the bottom of the piece, turning itself sideways and upside down to do so. After its 30 seconds or so on the suet, it followed the other birds into the branches, and a minute or so later the Titmouse returned for a second visit to the suet. Again it fed from the top of the piece, remaining this time for perhaps even a shorter period than it did during its first visit. The Chickadees did not return for a second visit. Two or three minutes later, after

I had walked around to the other side of Ryldamere, I found that a Downy Woodpecker had arrived at the suet where it remained for perhaps a minute. It also fed from the top of the piece. A pair of Cardinals were within a few feet of the suet about the same time but they seemed to be paying no attention to it. They made no move to feed upon it after the Downy Woodpecker left, although they could easily have done so.

The Blue Jay remained in the tops of the various trees around Ryldamere, remaining there several minutes before flying off. At the same time, a Cardinal in the pines (?) ledge softly sang all the notes of its spring songs as it rehersing them for the day not far away when he would proclaim loudly to one and all his territorial claims.

The anthers of the Silver Maple trees were plainly visible today but were not yet shedding their pollen, so I am not yet listing them flowers as in blossom. When does a flower cease to be a large bud and become a flower?

Today, or Sunday, 12 February, 1950, which is Lincoln's Birthday, there has been an almost continuous light chilly rain which started about six o'clock last night. The rain stopped about five o'clock this evening.

As a result, the water in Ryldamere is an inch or more higher than it was yesterday, and is definitely deeper than anything I have seen previously. I am going to have to arrange a device whereby I can adequately the depths of the water

in the pond. As yet, I have no suitable means of so doing. The water is now covering the entire bottom except at the higher north end, north of the willow which has fallen into the pond.

As a result of the rain, the bulb plants have made another spurt in growth, seeming to be an inch higher than yesterday. For the most part it isn't that much, - the smaller ones not having ~~grown~~ grown more than a quarter inch. Not only are these plants much greener than they were, but there are also numerous other tiny plants of various kinds showing up bright and green. They are still too small to attempt to identify. Most, if not all, of them are perennials.

The only birds observed during the visit this evening were a pair of Cardinals.

Doc. S.

14 February, 1950.

Winter returned yesterday afternoon with cold winds and light snow, so Paradox was looking quite dormant when I visited there about 5:30 this afternoon. Rylda-mere was frozen over with a thin layer of ice which was overlain with a thin cover of snow. The water level (= ice level) was ~~quite~~ the same height as on Sunday.

The snow cover on the ground was not heavy enough to hide the green leaves pushing up through last year's dead ones and apparently the winds were not cold enough to cause any damage. But all growth had temporarily stopped. The erect bulb leaves looked very brave

in their wintery surroundings.

The piece of suet was nearly gone, having yielded to the persistent pecking of the various birds. The small piece remaining was again secured in its place by tightening the wire holding it.

The only birds observed were two or three Cardinals.

I should have noted on Sunday (the 12th) that Mr. Kumm had apparently visited there in the afternoon before my arrival. There was still quite a bit of blue smoke coming from the chimney of 3 Wayback. But he had left prior to my arrival.

Doi. 8.

15 February, 1950.

The weather moderated considerably today under the influence of a bright sun most of the day. The wind was still quite cool so that melting occurred only in the sunniest protected spots.

A brief visit was made to Paradocs at evening dusk to replace the suet on the apple (?) tree. The last of the old piece was consumed today. The fresh new piece, weighing half a pound or more, was placed just where the old one had been located.

It was too late in the day for birds to be active, and none were seen. A couple of dogs, — a small black one and a small white one — were running around in front of 3 Wayback. They left when they spotted me in the vicinity.

A few winged insects about the size

and appearance of male canvas woven adults were observed flying around among the trees & shrubs just west of 'S Waybach. They were not collected nor identified.

Ryldamere had melted somewhat, but was still about three-fourths covered by a thin ~~coat~~ ice sheet.

D or. S.

16 February, 1950.

A couple of Robins were observed around Paradocs at about sunset this evening. I believe this is the first sight record of these birds at Paradocs since the 6th of January, altho they have been heard in the vicinity on the 9th + 10th of this month. Possibly other times have also been recorded, but I haven't carefully checked the previous pages to determine this. I am quite sure that I have not seen or heard any birds for which no record was made.

Also observed were half a dozen Cardinals, more or less. Soon after sunset, 3 or 4 of these birds were observed coming down to Ryldamere for a drink before retiring for the night. The fallen willow in the north end seemed to be especially convenient for this purpose. Two were seen using it and a third apparently used it. Both sexes were present.

Ryldamere was about one-fifth covered with ice, mostly located at the shaded south end — or more accurately — the southeast and southwest "corners" — but

also with small amounts in protected spots elsewhere around the edge.

The new piece of suet put up yesterday had been considerably picked at, both top and bottom. Another piece of wire was placed around it to more firmly hold it in place. The single strand placed around it in the fading dusk yesterday was scarcely adequate.

The bulb plants had come out of their cold weather lethargy and again had resumed growth – not rapidly, but at least visibly. The day was mostly clear and sunny, but the air remained quite cool, only a few degrees warmer than yesterday. The maple flowers also showed a little development, but are still apparently not completely out.

A few more canker-worms were noted in the "tanglefoot" bands, mostly males. perhaps 2 or 3 females.

Dr. Pease (of K.S.T.C.) brought in some cuttings of Pussy Willow from a tree in his own yard last week. These have been in water long enough to have sprouted roots and are now in the laboratory. I hope that perhaps tomorrow I can plant them at Paradocs, perhaps near the "stream" along the north edge. The stream is on the Brown property, just a few feet from the Paradocs boundary.

L or. S.

17 February, 1950

About 5:30 this afternoon I took the Pussy Willow (see 16 Feb.) out to Paradocs, for planting. There were eight cuttings, all

but one of which were well rooted. The one had a few roots on it, but far less than the others. These were planted along the northern edge of the lot, except for one. Five of the eight plants were about three feet tall, the other three about 18 inches. The first plant was located near northwest corner of the area and the remaining four large plants were distributed irregularly eastward to near the center of the north edge. The two smaller plants were located still somewhat farther eastward. The soil was very wet and cold, always containing more or less large amounts of a residual red clay at a depth of 6 to 8 inches. The overlying soil was a light brown clay, somewhat deficient in organic matter. The eighth plant, one of the smaller specimens having good roots, was planted in the somewhat higher soil in the "northeast" corner of Ryeldamere.

A number of Robins had stopped around Paradocs for their daily rest on their migration to the north. Also observed were a couple of flocks of blackbirds flying toward the northeast, - the first flying directly over the area and containing 100 birds, more or less. The other contained some 200 birds and flew north of the area. Most, if not all, of the birds in these flocks seemed to be Red-wings. Red-shouldered Hawks were heard when I first arrived at Paradocs, but again were not seen. Also heard were Cardinals. They could have been

seen if I had been around 'S Wayback at the time.

The ice was entirely gone from Reldamere, as would be expected from the strong southerly winds which sent the thermometer to 60°F. during the afternoon. The day was sunny and beautiful.

At dusk, a number of male cankerworm adults were observed flying around the lower parts of the trees. Their activity at the time was not observed.

Paradocs was again visited about 9 P.M., especially to note if any Anuraus were showing any nocturnal activity. No activity of any kind was observed during this brief visit.

Doc. S.

18 February, 1950. (Saturday)

On the second entry of 4 February, I noted that 10 twig specimens had been collected, but I did not have available at that time the record of their tentative identification. These twigs have remained in the vasculum until today, when I finally got around to putting them in press. Here is the tentative list - not yet identified.

#1 Pin Oak
#2 Osage Orange
#3 Ash
#4 Peach
#5 Apple
#6 Black Willow
#7 American Elm
#8 Silver Maple

#9 Black Cherry
#10 persimmon.

Maybe I can make additional collections tomorrow.

Today the Silver Maple at the north end of Ryldamere was in bloom, the stamens exerted far out of the bud scales. Those in flower were too high to collect. I'll make the collection when the lower buds come out. The large Silver maple toward the northwest corner of Paradocs is not yet in flower. Neither, apparently, are the elms, altho their buds are much swollen.

Only a brief visit after sunset was made today. The only birds stirring at the time were a couple of Cardinals. One of the Cardinals always seems to spend the night in the Junipers on the Meister lot - not far from the Paradocs lot line. Another one may use the Junipers near 8 Wayback on Paradocs.

A cold air mass came in last night, causing a moderately heavy frost at sunrise followed by cold north winds most of the day. However, there were few clouds and the temperature moderated somewhat by evening - still cold, nevertheless. The frost had nipped the edges of some of the tender green leaves on some of the Pussy Willows planted yesterday. The leaves and new sprouts had developed while the willows were indoors. The frost damage was less than anticipated. The few sprouts which had developed were not regarded as important, as most of the buds were still

dormant, or at most only slightly swollen.

While examining the willows, the big dark spotted white dog of the Gibsmores across the street came over barking at me, but the bark was not very sincere, as he quickly made friends with me as soon as he picked up my scent.

The cold air mass left the bulbs and other activities pretty much at a standstill during the day. I haven't figured out why the Silver Maple flowers were an apparent exception to this.

The way Ryldomere holds its water leaves me convinced that the water loss is all at the top. There will never be much water in the pond as long as the loss tends to exceed the supply. There is so little drainage into the pond and so much surface for evaporation from it that one cannot expect it to retain a constant water supply. The farm livestock ponds so frequent in this area which retain a more or less constant water supply are so constructed as to collect the drainage from 10 to 40 or more acres. Ryldamere probably does not get the drainage from more than one acre.

Doc. G.

19 February, 1950. (Sunday)

As a result of letters to select plants to be sponsored by the Pittsburg Garden Club, I received a package about last Wednesday from the Barcroft Nurseries containing a redbud sample for our consideration. They had bid on

2 to 3 foot stock at 17½ cents each for lots of 500 or more. Today I opened the package and found not one, but six, excellent specimans, - well packed. I decided to distribute them among the plant selection committee, taking a couple for myself. I planted one of these northwest of the north end of Ryldamere, north of the path opposite the big maple and Elm trees. The other was planted in front of 'S Waybach, on the south side of the fence. There was much Honeysuckle all around it, some of which had to be cleared away to do the planting. I shall have to clear out much more in the future.

Then I took a couple of the Redbuds over to the Leists and a little later a couple to the Dr. Ron. G. Smiths, - the other two members of the committee. The Smiths didn't want them, as they had more than they could use, with some of their own to give away. Then I stopped at Mrs. Harrington's - president of the Garden Club - but she still wasn't home. I had been trying to contact her for the last two days. By this time I was tired trying to get rid of them, ~~so~~ and I knew that they should be cared for at once, for they had been out of the ground too long already. So I took them back to Paradocs and set these out also.

The third tree was planted opposite the south end of Ryldamere, in the southwest angle of the Y of the drive. The fourth tree was planted in the northwest part of Paradocs, a few feet east of the fence and a few feet south of the north path, -

thus placing the tree on the west side of a big Silver maple.

The soil around the first plant was a good rich black loam soil, - containing one grubworm, one angleworm and one perfume bottle in the dug up spot. The other spots were in a loamy clay - rather poor as soils go, but fairly good as compared with most soils in this part of the county. Another grub worm and a couple more earthworms were noted in these other spots. The earthworms seemed to be within an inch of so of the soil surface, - the grubworms at a depth of 2 to 3 inches.

Mr. Kumm was in the Waybacks cleaning up more of its contents and burning more papers. He seemed to have it half emptied now. He gave me a key to the building - the key which had formerly been held by Mr. Hull for his use if he wished.

With reference to the Redbud tree, Mr. Kumm pointed out a small tree he had set out in the southwest part of the area, south of the south drive and some 15 or 20 feet east of the fence. There is a rather large, but not well-formed, Redbud just south of this tree over on the Meister property.

Mr. Kumm also pointed out a row of peonies planted on the north edge of the south drive, the spot where some Oriental Poppies had been planted at the crest of the hill just south of this drive, and the asparagus bed in the very northeast corner of Paradoxe. He also told of planting the Bur Oak near the

of the drive. This is now a moderately large tree some 15 feet high and 4 or 5 inches D.B.H. He had obtained the tree from woods along Cow Creek.

When the Pussy Willows were again examined, it was found that all of the young shoots had been killed and were hanging down in a very frostbitten manner. All of these shoots were removed.

Upon arrival at Paradocs, it was observed that a couple of girls were playing in the water in Ryldamere. I assumed that perhaps they had come out with Mr. Kumm, so I said nothing to them. One of them was wearing knee length boots and was wading thru the water, which seemed to be about 6 inches in depth in the deeper parts. They were looking for snail-shells with snails in them. They found a number of the shells, but apparently no live snails. It appeared later that they were youngsters of the neighborhood, for they disappeared long before Mr. Kumm left.

A small brown spotted white dog also paid a brief visit to the area.

Birds observed during the afternoon were

Tufted Titmouse (-mice!)
Carolina
B.-c. Chickadees
Robins
Cardinals
Carolina Wren (at dusk)

Also heard, but not seen, were Downy Woodpecker and Screech Owl. The latter seemed to be in a tree to the northeast over on Olive St.

Mr. Kumm reported that in earlier

days before the area was built up as much as it is now, herons (apparently Green Herons) used to occasionally visit Ryldamere.

Two Chickadees were observed feeding on the suet - the first one feeding at the bottom as previously observed, but the second one fed on the side near the top. But the top more or less hung over at this point, so it was still the under side so far as the Chickadee was concerned. Then the first one returned to feed at the bottom again. Two birds have not yet been observed feeding on the suet at the same time.

The tree, by the way, was verified as an Apple tree by Mrs. Hamm.

Doc. S.

P.S. The Daffodils were continuing their growth. A clump located south of the drive, southwest of Ryldamere, had a rather large bud on it extending well above the height of the leaves.

Doc. S.

20 February, 1950 (Monday)

Doc. G. accompanied me on a visit to Paradocs about dusk this evening. It was lovely having her along. I so enjoyed showing her the plantings made, and the developing plants which have become evident since her last visit there.

We have again been talking about a fence for the area, and should like to get one put up soon. We have agreed that we would prefer a woven wire fence with closely spaced barbed wire on top.

The woven wire part should be sufficiently close-meshed to be dog-proof. It would be nice to also have the fence cat-proof, but this is probably too expensive. The cat problem in this neighborhood is probably of much less importance than the dog problem, - at least at the present time. Most persons in the area seem to keep one or more dogs, most of them running loose much of the time.

To keep the fence mostly hidden, we should like to have it well planted with trees, shrubs and vines. The fence would be placed a couple of feet, more or less, inside the lot line so that the shrub growth could be trimmed back to the lot line without exposing the wire.

For my birthday today, Dyo gave me a book entitled "Cook it Outdoors" by James Beard. Now we are both dreaming of an outdoor fireplace where we can try out some of the very tempting dishes suggested by the author. We have tentatively agreed that such a fireplace might be placed near the southeast corner of Paradocs, facing 'D Wayback, with a small terrace between the two.

We spent most of our time until it was dark dreaming about future developments of Paradocs. Dyo said I had a million things to do there, enough to keep me out of mischief for quite some time.

During our visit I noted a couple of Cardinals and two flocks of Red-wings, with over 100 birds (estimated) per flock. Robins were heard, but not seen.

No appreciable change was noted in the plant life. The weather was quite cool in the morning, becoming warmer and pleasanter during the afternoon, followed by a thin layer of low clouds before sunset changing to rain at night.

Doc. S.

21 February, 1950 (Tuesday)

The rain last night marked the passage of a warm front to the north, and the low clouds and warm air mass this morning caused the bulb plants and elm and maple buds to jump another notch. But a fast moving cold front swept by just after noon today, sending the temperatures skidding to freezing again tonight.

Some of the elms on the campus appeared in bloom today, but a check on the elms at Paradocs this evening showed that they were not so far along, and that probably another day or two of warm weather will be necessary to bring them into flower. More Silver Maple flowers were evident this evening, but there are still many which are not yet out, including entire trees in some cases.

Birds observed in a 20 minute period shortly after 5 P.M. today included a few Cardinals, English Sparrows, Robins and Slate-colored Juncos. The latter have not been seen there since 28 January. Some Canada Geese were seen over the campus about 1 P.M. today, and it might have been possible to see them from Paradocs if I had been there at the time. It will

be just plain luck if I record three birds from Paradocs this year.

The item of greatest interest today was the survey made of the Meister lot, in which iron pins were place at the northwest and northeast corners of this lot, marking the southwest and southeast corners of Paradocs. The southeast corner of Paradocs turned out to be about a foot farther north than I had estimated, for which I was sorry, as I should have liked as much of the old chicken yard area as possible to give us ample space in front of 'S Wayback. However, the southwest corner turned out to be about six feet farther south than I had estimated. The line between these two corners places some spirea bushes and a big red-flowered almond (or whatever the big shrub is) on our side of the line, but the Bur Oak (mentioned on 19 Feb. - bottom of page 44) and a smaller nearby elm are a few feet on their side of the line. They also get a nice lot of rocks near the N of the drive, but we should-n't complain about that as we still get the lion's share of these stones.

This reminds me that at a Knife + Fork Club dinner on 10 February, I sat beside Mr. + Mrs. Meister and became acquainted with them. Mrs. Meister confessed then that she had intended to come over and take some of those big stones from our side of the line, but now that she knew who owned it, she could no longer do so.

Doc. S.

23 February, 1950 (Thursday)

Visited Paradocs briefly about 10:30

this morning, during which time I saw a flock of Slate-colored Juncos, a pair of Tufted Titmice, a couple of Cardinals, and I heard a Crow in the distance.

The last two nights have been below freezing and the high temperature yesterday was only a few degrees above freezing. Consequently there was little development at Paradocs since my last visit, except for a little additional growth of the daffodil leaves. Ryeplanere had apparently been mostly covered by a thin coat of ice. Today was considerably warmer but at 10:45 AM there were still many long slender ice crystals over the surface of the water, totaling perhaps 10% of the water's surface.

A moderately well-beaten path from 'S Wayback and numerous tire tracks indicated that Mr. Kumm had spent a busy day during his holiday (but none for me!) yesterday, and had probably cleared away many items from the building. I didn't take time to look inside.*

Doc. D.

25 February, 1950 (Saturday)

While shopping in town this morning, I purchased the first item especially for Paradocs, — a single-bit axe. I asked for a large hand axe, but the store (Sears) had only hatchets and small scout axes. I didn't care for either of these, so I purchased the larger tool instead. I also obtained a roll of Kodachrome film to record a series of pictures of Paradocs.

Even before reading Paradocs in the afternoon I noted clouds moving in from the northwest, so I promptly took the pictures upon arrival about 2 P.M. The day was sunny, but there was a very cool moderate wind from the north which slowed down the shutter action of my improperly functioning camera. I needed exposure times of 1/10th and 1/25th second, but had the times set at 1/50th to 1/250th second. Still, I am afraid the exposures were too long. It didn't take long to use up the 20 frames on the roll of film. Exposures were made along both lot lines from each of the 4 corners of the area, down each of the drives, about 4 views of Ryldamere, 2 or 3 additional views of 'S Wayback, a couple of views of the "prairie area" west of Ryldamere, & a couple of views looking away from 'S Wayback. There are still a number of details around Paradocs which were not photographed, — sheds, brick pile, stones, shrub groves, various trees, paths, plantings, etc. A layer of high thin clouds moved in about one-half hour after I finished taking the photographs.

Following the photography, I began cleaning some of the heavy layer of leaves — especially the tough 8 in Oak leaves — from off of the spring bulb planting. In doing so, I found whole rows of plants were previously I had suspected only scattered plants — mostly near 'S Wayback. Three rows along the fence in front of 'S Wayback were not only covered with the leaves, but were also well imbeded in a mass of Honeysuckle vine as well. I pulled

out many of these vines until my hands got too sore to continue further with this activity.

Then I got out the new axe and began cutting some of the dead and down branches on the ground around Ryldamere. Most of these branches had been broken off by the heavy ice storms of a year and two years ago when trees throughout the area were all heavily damaged by ice. There was no ice here during the winter just finishing. I had time to cut up 2 or 3 branches, which gave 2 or 3 armloads of firewood. This was stacked on top of some concrete blocks placed on the north side of 'S Wayback. While looking for this place for the firewood, I found a couple of small plants of English Ivy growing adjacent to the chimney. It seemed to be healthy enough, but was making no attempt at climbing the chimney or anything else in the area.

Most notable observation of the afternoon was hearing a frog (~~Cr~~ Cricket Frog?) "singing" in Ryldamere. I couldn't get very close to the singer + could not locate its position. This is the first frog song I had heard this year, — tho I had seen cricket frogs elsewhere on several occasions the past two weeks. I have yet to see my first frog on Baradors.

While looking for the ~~cricket~~ frog, I found the shell of a Box Tortoise along the water's edge — first time I had seen this on the area. In the water were several snails of the Planorbis type crawling around on the sticks + leaves in the water. Undoubtedly

many could have been found if a search was made. Also present were many diving beetles of the Dytiscid type coming to the surface for air then diving again to the leaf litter below. These beetles were 1/4 to 3/8ths inch in length and apparently a very dark brown.

Birds seen during the afternoon were:-

Robin
Starling
Crow
B.-c. Chickadee
T. Titmouse
English sparrow
Cardinal
S.-c. Junco
E. Red-wing (Flock of 100+)
Cooper's Hawk.

Also heard during the afternoon was a Carolina Wren.

The Titmouse was feeding on the suet at one time, again at the top of the piece.

This is the first sight record for the Crow. Even at that, it wasn't very close, - seen from Paradocs in the top of some trees near Quincy.

The Cooper's Hawk was also a new record, - this bird flying southwestward rapidly over the northwest corner of Paradocs.

A junco bill was found on the willow log lying in the north end of Ryldomere. Only the feathers remained. The bills was not identified.

All of these bird kills could well have been cat - a suspicion strongly strengthened by the observation of two large Maltese cats in the southeast corner of the lot, going into the weed patch on the rear end of the Hull

property. Perhaps the cat problem is greater than suspected several days ago. Anyway, there is going to be a cat kill or two if I catch them at any mischief around the area.

Doc. D.

26 February, 1950 (Sunday)

I didn't visit Paradox today due to an afternoon and evening visit to Joplin to see "Oklahoma" and to visit the Einsel's. Saw a big flock of Snow Geese (?) (a few Blue Geese, too, I guess) on the way down. The day was sunny, but the continued north wind kept the day quite cool.

I forgot to note that last night after collecting some Silver Maple flowers from the tree near the ~~southwest~~ northwest "corner" of Ryldamere for Miss Adele Burnett and taking them to her for Dr. I made another trip into town to purchase a pair of tin shears to cut some hardware cloth to put around the redbuds I set out last week. Figured I might get it out this morning if I got up in time – which I didn't. While at Darr's Hardware Store I also purchased a double-edged tree pruning saw to remove some of the broken limbs from the trees. Now I wonder when I will get a chance to use it.

Doc. D.

27 February, 1950. (Monday)

Not much change was noted during today's brief visit to Paradox about 6 P.M. Birds observed were a couple of Robins and a flock of 50 ± ~~Red~~ Red-wings flying north.

An examination of the chunk of suet showed it to be about one-third eaten.

The bulb plants uncovered on Saturday

still showed much bright yellow color. I could not tell whether they had developed any green color or not. Most of the plants were already exposed to the light and hence green, but there were perhaps 8 or 10 plants scattered in various areas showing more or less predominant yellow. All of these plants seemed to show some additional growth. The tallest plants are now 4 to 6 inches high. The smallest ones are still scarcely more than showing thru the soil or leaves.

I stumbled over the base of a stem of sumac which apparently Mrs. Kumm had cut off last fall, - on the west side of Rylda-mere. I tried to break it off, but discovered it pulled out easier. The pulling resulted in a rhizome 2 to 3 feet long and located about an inch deep in the loose "broom sedge" prairie soil, being pulled up. The rhizome had another foot or two of roots attached to the end in addition to frequent smaller roots along the sides of the rhizome. Apparently it broke off on both ends. I have no idea how far it might have extended. There was at least one (maybe two) additional upright stems which had also been cut off, on this same rhizome.

A showery rain developed late tonight. Maybe there will be enough to do some good. We are a little shy on moisture the past week, more or less.

Doc. S.

28 February, 1950. (Tuesday).

Dys accompanied me on a brief visit to Paradoxo this evening. There was 3/4ths inch of rainfall last night, which brought up the

water level in Ryeldamere ~~was~~ estimated inch and a half. This is more water than I had previously seen at any time in this pond.

The rain was produced by a new cold air mass, which gave a rather sunny but rather cold windy day. As a result, there seemed to be nothing stirring at Paradox and no new observations were made.

Doc. S.

2 March, 1950. (Thursday)

Continued cold northerly winds are keeping biological developments pretty much at a standstill. Tuesday night was cold enough to produce a crust of ice on water puddles near Charnoc. Paradox was not visited during the day.

Last night, the temperature dropped to 16°F. with considerable ice developing everywhere. Paradox was visited briefly this evening, and even tho there had been some sunshine and melting during the day, Ryldamere was still about one-third covered with ice. Since most of this was at the shaded south end (some in other protected spots), indications are that the pond was more or less completely and uniformly covered with ice this morning, and that melting during the day in areas of maximum insolation produced the distribution pattern observed this evening. It is probable that there was also at least a partial covering of ice on Wednesday morning, - possibly continuing more or less all day.

The cold weather apparently had not

damaged the Daffodil leaves or buds at all. The tallest of these are now 6 inches or more in height. Those which were so yellow early this week are all now turning more or less green, altho frequent yellow patches of leaves remain on some of these plants.

In spite of the cold winds, there seems to have been enough heating during the few warmest hours of the day to produce flowers on the American Elm near the northwest "corner" of Ryldamere. Only a few of these flowers were observed.

Birds observed this evening were D.-c. Juncos and Robins. Cardinals were heard but not seen.

Doc. D.

3 March, 1950 (Friday).

Southwesterly winds prevailed during the day, bringing considerable cloudiness and moderating temperatures. Before leaving school, Dyshad invited the Leists to look at 'D Wayback — now that we have a key — but it was nearly 6 P.M. before we arrived there. The Leists came over a few minutes later and inspected the inside of 'D Wayback. Mr. Leist said, "So this is your dreamhouse!". But they liked the fireplace and agreed with us that the place could be made quite attractive — given plenty of time and work. We got out the steel tape and found the inside measurements of the larger room (inside the studding) to be 11.5' X 14.5'. The smaller room was 9.5' X 14.5'. The Leists are hereby recognized as our first visitors.

There was no ice on Ryldamere.

a Pseudacris favored us with a few calls during our visit.

The only birds recorded were Robins seen and Cardinals and Carolina Wrens heard.

Don S.

4 March, 1950 (Saturday).

Today I spent most of the time from 11 A.M. to sunset on or around Paradocs. Shortly after arriving there, I took the surveying tape and pins over to Dr. Leist's and we surveyed the boundaries of his lot, finding them to be 311.5' X 145.5' (at the rear) and 147.5', apparently, along the street.

Then we returned to Paradocs to survey its* boundaries as well as our limited methods would permit. We obtained a figure of 208.7' on the west side, instead of the 209.58 indicated on Mr. Hamm's survey data. Because of slope and irregular banks around shrubs and interfering objects, the actual measurement should be slightly less than the figure obtained rather than equal to or greater than that figure. On the ~~south~~ south we measured 219.7' instead of the listed 220.35', while on the north side we obtained a figure of 229.0' instead of 225.6'. On the irregular east side we found a distance of 157.8' south of the iron pin near shed No. 2 instead of the calculated 161.58', while in measuring north from this pin to the iron pin put in by the Brown's we obtained 44.5' instead of the 48' stated in the sales contract. The jog in this lot line to the east of the iron pin at shed No. 2 was an even 8 feet. Also the

distance from the Brown's iron pin near the southeast corner of their lot to the rear fence was also 8 feet.

Doc D.

11 March, 1950 (Saturday).

I've been too busy this past week to finish writing the account of last Saturday's activities, or to make further observations at Paradoxe this week since Sunday.

To take up where I left off for last Saturday — 4 March, 1950 —

Dr. Leist and I then found that the Brown's lot was 105 feet wide, both front and rear, instead of the 100 feet as given in Mrs. Kumm's sketch map. This made it look as if the Brown's line was from 3½ to 5 feet farther south than it should have been. Obviously, the first thing to do was to check the figures with Mrs. Kumm to verify their accuracy.

But it was now about 1:30 P.M., so I returned to Chanoso for lunch. The day was sunny but rather cool with a moderate northerly wind. After lunch I returned to Paradoxe to make shorter measurements locating 3 Waylack, the sheds, Ryeldamere and other non-biotic features of the area. I ended up with a whole page full of figures.

I finished about sunset, then went into town on a few errands, including a stop at Demuys for a tree pruning saw. There I purchased a double edged saw about 2 feet long with large teeth on one side and smaller teeth on the other. It was of

wrong date

Vacant

Jeffries property
1410 S. College

Survey of
Revision of

Scale:- 1 mm. = 1 foot.

Area =

College

208.7 ft.

iron pin

219.2 ft.

Meister property

Ryldam ere

21 ft.

38 ft.

22 ft.

22.5 ft

10.5 ft.

'S Wayback

iron pin
12.3 ft.

162 ft.

Hull property

C. A. Leist property

Skidmore property

Messenger property



Paradocs
4 March, 1950.
1.062 acres

N
W
S
E

Distances are tape measured.

See pp. 8, 9, this Volume.
Also Volume 6, pp. 282-283

iron pin

Lot 3 | Lot 4

correction
error

229 ft.

Brown property
1405 S. College

Bricks

Shelter

Shed #1
8.5'x10'

water

Shed #2
8.5'x
8.5'

iron pin

48 ft.

44.5 ft.

iron pin.

Wheeler property

See 26 Feb. 1950.

an intermediate type, not large enough for really heavy work but satisfactory for most of what I would be doing, and small enough to work among heavy branches + close growths. But my real purpose in stopping at Derry's was to purchase a pair of heavy tin snips to cut some hardware cloth to serve as protection around the new redbud trees. The saw was purchased in a moment of weakness, but I knew I would soon be needing it anyway.

The birds observed during the days work are as follows:-

Red-shouldered Hawk - 3 flying over.
English Sparrow - small flock.
Robin - 8 - one taking a bath in Ryldamere.
Cardinal - 2 - one getting a drink from Ryldamere.
Black-capped (Carolina) Chickadee - 2
Downy Woodpecker - 1
Mourning Dove - 2
Field Sparrow - 1
Starling - 4
Red-wings - 150± in one flock, 200± in another.
Song Sparrow - 1

Heard, but not seen, were the following:-

h-Sparrow Hawk
h-Crow
h-E. Meadowlark
h-Killdeer
h-Barred Owl

Also seen was one Cottontail Rabbit, - the first one I have seen on the area. I've observed one on the last day of December in 1949.

Several snails (Planorbis type) were observed in Ryldamere.

Swamp Cricket Frogs (Pseudacris) were

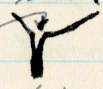
heard on many occasions during the day, but they stopped calling whenever I came close to Ryldamere. I was, however, able to detect at least 3 individuals calling from different parts of the pond.

On the next day, which ~~Sa~~ was Sunday 5 March, 1950, I arrived at Paradocs for a brief visit about 8 A.M. with Dys as a lonely spectator. During 15 or 20 minutes of meanderings around the grounds I listed the following birds:-

Robin
Cardinal
Blue Jay
Carolina Wren
Field Sparrow
English Sparrow
Mourning Dove
Crow
Redwing
h-Flicker
h-Red-shouldered Hawk
h-Bluebird
h-E. Meadowlark

About the middle of the afternoon on the same day I returned to Paradocs with tin snips and hardware cloth which were used to prepare 4 protectors around the 4 redbud trees. Each protector was about 18 inches high and a foot in diameter. The ½ inch hardware cloth was some I had on hand from back in bird-banding days (1940 or 41).

Then I got out the new saw to trim up some of the ice-broken branches. The first tree was a Black cherry on the west side of Ryldamere near the south end. This turned out

to be quite a lot of work, since I couldn't reach ~~it~~ it from the ground, and I had to climb onto a low limb and hang on with one hand while sawing with the other. Next were 4 limbs (2 "Y" branches which had split down the middle —  ) on a wild plum on the west side of Ryldamere. The worst part of this job were the numerous stout thorns everywhere. The low diffuse branching made the small trees easy to climb, but the branches, even when cut off, were difficult to remove as the thorns hung on tenaciously to every other thorn and twig on each branch. Next was a broken branch of a willow which hung out over the water on the west side of Ryldamere. I was out over the water while doing the sawing. The limb fell off into the water too far out to reach. It is still there. Then I tried another willow limb on a tree near the northwest "corner" of Ryldamere, but there were too many branches in the way & nothing to stand on, so I gave up on it temporarily before getting started. Anyway I was running short on ~~my~~ time.

During the afternoon I listed the following birds:- Downy Woodpecker
Red-shouldered Hawk
Carolina
~~B-c~~. Chickadee — 2 on the suet,
Robin
Cardinal
Blue Jay
Tufted Titmouse — on suet,
Field Sparrow
Bluebird
Killdeer
Mourning Dove

Starling
Redwings - flock of 75 ±.
4- English Sparrow
4- Crow

No Pseudacris were heard during the morning visit, tho they were going strong when I left the evening before, but during the afternoon 5 or more of them were heard most of the time when I wasn't working too close to Ryldamere. They gradually increased in frequency and boldness in calling during the afternoon so that by sunset even my walking around the edge of Ryldamere didn't always stop them. There were an estimated 10 of them (±) calling when I left that evening. I saw them a time or two, but haven't yet caught any.

Twice during the warmer part of the afternoon a chorus of frogs suddenly developed. As nearly as I could determine from their call, they were the Southern Meadow Frogs - Rana sphenocephala. I haven't yet seen any of these. They called only a minute or so on each occasion, then stopped as suddenly as they started.

Observed during the afternoon were several small orange butterflies and many smaller insects, many of these Diptera, as well as several water striders on Ryldamere. When I pulled up a rather large piece of corrugated roofing which had been completely covered with debris + some soil near the northeast corner of Paradoxa, I uncovered 2 large orange centipets, rather slender but about 2½ inches long. Also present were 1 or 2 rather broad purplish-brown millipeds about an inch long. Numerous tunnels which could have been made

by mice honeycombed the area uncovered. They did not appear to have been recently used, at least by mice.

Then last night about 6 P.M. (on Friday, - 10 March, 1950)
Lyp and I visited Paradocs for the first time since last Sunday. The cold weather persisting throughout the week had prevented much change in the appearance of the vegetation. There had been a little growth of the bulbs and a little swelling of the buds, but no development which could be noted on a phenological record. The water level in Ryldomere was down a fraction of an inch due to high winds and no rain.

The winds had blown over a couple of the redbud ~~frost~~ protectors, which were easily righted and put into place. It had also blown a large metal roof which had been lying on top of the pile of bricks off on the east side and had left it standing on edge against the west end of the shelter. No damage done, however. - None possible in this immediate area, so far as I know.

During our visit numerous Robins were flying around among the trees. One came down to the south end of Ryldomere to take a bath. There were also several Cardinals also quite active, a couple of them getting a drink from Ryldomere. A flock of 100 or more Redwings flew over and a single Carolina Wren scolded from the hedge back of 'S Wayback.

Today, 11 March, 1950,

I have not yet visited Paradox, but did stop at Dewy's this morning to pick up our axe mattox which had been ordered for me and which arrived a few days ago. I also purchased a nice little wood rasp to get the mattox handle to fit – and for general use which thistool is always good for.

Don S.

11 March, 1950, – Evening now!

I forgot to mention in this morning's account that I stopped at Mr. Kumm's office to check on the Brown property. I was told that the Miller's, on the north side of the Brown's, built their house over their property line to the south and that they obtained an additional 25 feet from Mr. Kumm. Then when the Brown's bought the next 100 feet from Mr. Kumm, they also bought the southern 5 feet of the Miller property, making them a total frontage of 105 feet. From this, one might assume that the iron pins around their property are correct, and that the 44.5 feet measured by me represent the actual residual portion of lot 4 instead of the 48 feet as indicated by the sales agreement. So I called them to tell them that apparently their stakes are correctly located and that it was the original survey distance which was in error.

The rush just now in determining the location of this line is due to the Brown's planting a row of Red Cedars next to their fence. We saw the holes dug for the trees yesterday afternoon during our visit there, and the balled and burlaped trees in their yard. Mrs. Brown came over to the fence

yesterday afternoon to inquire about the tree planting and about their fence which was set squarely on the line. It was then that I told her about the apparent short distance between their lot-line and the limit of lot 4. She was concerned about this, and in our telephone conversation this morning, said that they had looked up the description of their property and had found that their south border is stated to be 48 feet north of the south line of lot 4. She said that they would investigate further if their property failed to conform with this description.

In reply, I told her that if there was an error in the original survey measurements, we would accept the residual part of lot 4 even tho the measurements did not agree with that in the sales contract. I also stated that we did not object to the fence placed squarely on the line nor to the trees placed very close to the line — (only about a foot or so off, so as to stand between the ditch and the lot line, in such a way that the branches & roots would soon extend over the line) — since we intended to plant additional trees on our side of the line. Altho I did not say so, we have in fact planted the Pussy Willows quite close to their fence, so that some of their branches might extend over the line.

A brief visit was made to Paradox about 5:30 this afternoon. A wet cold wind was blowing in from the north following another cold frontal passage last night. The paper recorded a little over one-half inch of rain accompanying

the frontal passage. After 10 or 15 minutes out in that wind I was quite chilled and was glad enough to get back into the shelter of ~~the~~ Zoo, too. There was more leaf growth on the bulb plants and many flower buds noted on these plants, but nothing to constitute a phenological date.

The usual Robins, Starlings, English Sparrows, and Cardinals were heard, but little was observed in the cold winds except Slate-colored Juncos and an Eastern Hairy Woodpecker.

The latter is a new record for Paradoxa. It was carefully observed in the Cottonwoods at the south end of Ryldamere and in the Silver Maple at the north end. This is the 21st species of bird observed from Paradoxa and the 25th one identified. The four which have been heard but not yet seen from the area are Barred Owl, Screech Owl, Sparrow Hawk and Eastern Meadowlark.

No Pseudacris nor Rana were heard.

Doc. S.

P.S. The rain had brought the water level in Ryldamere up nearly an inch from yesterday's level, so that in one place it nearly covered the willow log which had fallen in the pond near the north end. This is the deepest I have yet seen the water. It now covers nearly the entire bottom except at the northeast "corner".

Doc. S.

12 March, 1950 (Sunday)

There has been considerable snow and

sleet last night and today, some of the sleet pellets being almost large enough for hail. The temperature has been hanging around 25°F, more or less, with northerly winds.

It was nearly 6 P.M. before I visited Paradox today. Ryldamere was covered with a sheet of ice about a quarter inch thick, on top of which was a thin layer of sleet and snow. It had been broken at 3 or 4 points near the south end, apparently by some youngster wondering if it was strong enough to support his or her weight.

The sleet was gone. I noticed yesterday that it was getting pretty well eaten around the wires and had intended tightening them again but somehow didn't get around to doing it. I don't know what happens to the sleet when it falls on the ground, but it disappears completely and apparently rather quickly. Maybe the cats pick it up and carry it away.

After a quick survey of the place, during which I noted (today), that the truck tracks observed yesterday led to the shed on the back part of the Meister property, where some apparently heavy object had been delivered, I got out the axe to do a bit of wood cutting. I pulled a large Silver maple limb out of the north end of Ryldamere, breaking the ice in doing so, and placed the large end of it over the decaying large timbers just north of the pond. Then I went to work with the axe, cutting six two-foot lengths before it got too dark for further work. There ~~are~~ still are three 5 or 6 pieces left

in the smaller ~~ment~~ end. The rotten timbers didn't make a very good chopping block, as they went to pieces under the rough treatment. Three more cement blocks were carried from along the east fence near shed No. 1 to extend the base for the wood-pile back of 'S Waybach, and the two big armloads of cut wood were placed on top of them.

A few Robins and Cardinals were observed during my visit. Soon after starting the wood cutting, a Hairy Woodpecker suddenly appeared in the big Silver Maple from which the limb had fallen. I wondered if it had been sheltered in the hole in the dead limb, noted earlier (See 29 January, page 15) and if my cutting had been too much disturbance for it. Anyway it hung around in the vicinity for a few minutes before finally flying off toward the southeast.

Even before I had finished work, a mixed sleet and freezing rain again began to fall, freezing on the ~~the~~ bit of the axe. I was glad I didn't have more than a mile and a half to drive back to Charnoz, and that even this distance didn't lie near the center of town.

Doc. S.

13 March, 1950 (Monday)

Today I received the Kodachrome photographs taken on 25 February, from Chicago. They turned out better than I had expected. In general, they were slightly underexposed, instead of overexposed as anticipated. Those taken shooting into the sun were about

right. Only the first frame was overexposed, and this one was duplicated.

We projected the pictures with a lantern at school after 5 P.M. and were pleased with the results. Dyp suggested some shots which I hadn't made - one of the north side of 'S Wayback, and one a view of the area from the west, taken midway between the two drives. When the camera is returned from the repair shop (in Wichita), I should like also to take some details of the bulb plantings and some of the individual trees, none of which are well shown in any of the photographs.

The record of photographs taken at Paradocs on 25 February, 1950 is as follows:-

Roll #69, Photo. 1 - Near nW. corner, looking S. (poor)
" 2 - Near nw. corner, looking S.
" 3 - Nw. corner, looking e.
" 4 - W. side, looking e. down north drive.
" 5 - W. side, looking e. down south drive.
" 6 - sW. corner, looking e.
" 7 - Near sw. corner, looking n.
" 8 - S. drive, looking ne. across Ryldamere.
" 9 - Center of s. drive, looking e. toward 'S Wayback.
" 10 - S. end Ryldamere, looking n.
" 11 - Near s. end Ryldamere, looking to 'S Wayback.
" 12 - 'S Wayback from the sw.
" 13 - Looking s. from 'S Wayback.
" 14 - Se. corner, looking w.
" 15 - Near se. corner, looking n. to 'S Wayback.
" 16 - Looking nw. from 'S Wayback.
" 17 - Looking n. from 'S Wayback, to Shed #1.
" 18 - Ne. corner, looking w.
" 19 - Near ne. corner, looking s.
" 20 - N. end of Ryldamere, looking sw.

Roll #69, Photo. 21 - W. side Ryldamere, looking across to 'S Wayback.
" 22 - Center of n. drive, looking S. across "prairie."

A short visit by both of us about 6 o'clock this evening disclosed that Ryldamere was still frozen over except for a small area along the edge at the shallow north end. The snow and sleet on the surface had melted in the bright afternoon sun, but not the ice beneath.

The temperature last night dropped to 15°F. Today was bright and clear, with a moderate north wind, becoming light. The bright sunshine melted the trace of ice and snow on the surface, but the air temperature never got above 32°F. and there was no melting in the shade. Even a twig less than ½ inch in diameter, and several inches above the ground, cast enough of a shadow to prevent melting.

The high metabolic activity and high osmotic pressure of the cell sap of the daffodil leaves and buds combined to prevent any damage to these plants due to the ice and cold.

Birds observed during the visit were Robins, Cardinals, Starlings, and Redwings. Also heard was a Crow.

Doc S.

P.S. In examining the Pussy Willows along the north border, it was observed that the fifth plant from the west end was pulled about 3 inches above its planted level. It looked as if this had been done by someone while handling the cedars which the Brown's are planting. A nearby tree, not yet planted, was present on our side of the line.

The Pussy Willow was pushed back into the soft soil and the earth tamped around it a bit. It was too soft to do much tamping.

Don S.

Ides of March, 1950 (Wednesday)

I forgot to note on the 13th that a Cardinal was observed feeding on the berries of the Sumac bushes located near the northwestern corner of Paradocs. This, I believe, is the first time I had observed this particular feeding habit in a Cardinal.

During a brief visit about 5:30 P.M. yesterday to Paradocs I noted a rather thin sheet of ice still present on the shaded south end of Ryldamere, but the rest of the water surface was open. Traces of ice remained in the most sheltered spots, but most of the remaining soil was more or less muddy.

As a result of the thawing, some of the leaves on the tallest of the daffodils were bent over on the ground as leaves, but most of them were still erect, even some of the leaves on plants where bending over occurred.

Since there was little else stirring, I again examined the "tanglefoot" bands on the elm trees, - for the first time for several weeks. (Feb. 16 and 17 are the later dates I noted in thumbing thru these pages). It seemed to me that there were more of both the winged males and wingless females than when I last looked at these bands, but the increase, if present, was rather slight with no indications that any insects had been trapped during the past few days - possibly longer. My guess is that 10 to 15 males

were trapped to each female insect caught. The females are too hard to locate to make a careful estimate of numbers, but I would guess that there was a total of at least 25 females caught on all trees banded, and I should say easily 250 males got themselves stuck in the goo!

A few insects of other kinds were also caught in these bands, but these were not as frequent as I had anticipated.

I did notice that sycamore seeds were present in some bands. The tree has evidently been shedding its last years seeds which had been hanging all winter on the tree. No doubt these feathery little seeds could be blown for considerable distances (miles) on a dry sunny, but windy, day in the early spring. The appearance of the fruit remaining on the tree substantiated the seed shedding surmise, but they were too high in the tree to be readily obtained.

Birds noted during the visit were S.-c. Junco, Redwings and Robins. Additional forms heard but not seen were English Sparrow and Crow.

The Brownis had finished (were just finishing!) the planting of their cedars along the fence line. There were 12 plants about 3 feet high, one planted between each of the 12 sections of fence on the boundry and are between the westernmost fence section and the road.

Don S.

P.S. I'm too sleepy to think clearly tonight. - I didn't visit Paradocs today, but I should record the weather — which was rain starting about 9 A.M. and occurring intermittantly thruout the day and into the night. At one time during the morning there was considerable snow mixed with the rain, and in general the temperature has ~~at~~ remained not many degrees above the freezing level.

Hor S.

17 March, 1950 (Friday)

Dyp and I were accompanied yesterday on a visit to Paradocs about 4:30 P.M. by Miss Maxine Fish of Decatur, Ill., ~~and~~ a graduate student in the Biology Dept. of the college. She is our third visitor to Paradocs. (Dr. + Mrs. Leist were the first two)

The day was partly cloudy and considerably warmer than the first part of the week, so that the ice was gone from Ryldamere. The rain had brought the water level up a good part of an inch to a new high. There must be some 8 or 9 inches of water now in the deepest part. It was noted that an inch of rainfall doesn't seem to change the level of water in the pond as much as it did earlier, — as would of course be expected due to the larger area of surface as it spreads out over the sloping bottom of the pool.

After several minutes during which we remained relatively quiet, the Southern Meadow Frogs (Rana sphenocephala) began to call and within a few minutes developed quite a chorus of perhaps 8 or 10 - perhaps

more - voices. We were reminded of Mr. Casciaro's (a grad. student) description when he called them the "laughing frog". I saw them for the first time as they biched around in the water - apparently a part of their mating activities. I wasn't close enough to them to get a good look at them.

Birds observed on the area were Robins, a S.-c. Junco, and a pair of Mourning Doves.

While looking at the canker worm adults in the tanglefoot bands around one of the elm trees, Maxine touched the tanglefoot to see if it was still sticky. It was!

Doc S.

P.S. Red-shouldered Hawks were heard.

Doc S.

22 March, 1950 (Wednesday)

After school last Friday (17 March), I proceeded to change into some work clothes, then out to Paradox with steel tape and map board to plot the location of the trees on the area.

I started working northward from the southeast corner to Shed #2, then I went over to the northwest gate and worked eastward along the drive. It was dark by the time I had finished this much of the area. I doubt that I finished more than one quarter of the trees on the area. A total of 55 trees were located, of which 11 were large, - over 10 inches D.B.H. (a foresters' abbreviation meaning "diameter, breast high"). These trees belonged to the following seven species, given here with their map symbols:-

As (Acer saccharinum) - Silver Maple
Jv (Juniperus virginiana) - Red Cedar
Mr (Morus rubra) - Red Mulberry
Pp (Prunus persica) - Peach
Ps (Prunus serotina) - Black Cherry
Qp (Quercus palustris) - Pin Oak
Ua (Ulmus americana) - American Elm.

During the day, the following other organisms were noted:-

Cardinal
Robin
Tufted Titmouse
Bronzed Grackle (2 flying over)
Mourning Dove
Carolina
B.-c. Chickadee
Red wings
h English sparrow

The Bronzed grackle were a new record for Paradox. Also observed was a Cottontail near the northern clump of Sumacs. Pseudacris and Rana sphenocephala were both heard and seen.

Doc. S.

24 March, 1950. (Friday)

Brief visits were made to Paradox on both Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Dyp was with me on Wednesday,

March 22, 1950,

at which time we noted

Hairy Woodpecker
Blue Jay (2 in top of the Juniper)
Robins
Purple Martin (1 flying over)
h. English Sparrow

The Purple Martin is a new record. There had been a heavy frost the night

before, probably producing a little ice on Ryeldamere, but it was gone by evening. Ryeldamere continued to remain at a record high level (for this year). The weather had generally remained cloudy and cold, with 2 or 3 periods of light rainfall, so that there had been relatively little plant development during the period. This combined with a case of the flu over the week-end accounts for the lack of activity the past several days.

On Thursday evening,

23 March, 1950,

two solid yellow trumpet daffodils were in bloom along the path on the north side of 'S Wayback, - the first herbaceous flowers on the area. The large bud south of the south drive which had been slowly developing the past 2 or 3 weeks was also practically open, revealing a greenish yellow double daffodil or jonquil. (I am uncertain of the name). Pseudactis and Rana were heard, a Robin was observed taking a bath, a couple of Starlings and several Purple Martins were seen overhead, and a Cardinal and English Sparrows were heard in the vicinity.

Doc. S.

24 March, 1950 (again).

As a result of Apple Day (= Founder's Day) ceremonies at KSTC, there was a holiday this afternoon, which permitted a whole afternoon for work at Paradocs. The weather was mild and sunny with a light wind - just right for working.

The afternoon was spent in plotting the trees on the map. First, the trees around the

pond were located, followed by those along the south drive, and finally those along the south edge of the lot. Those which still remain to be located are those along the north edge of the lot and a few along the west edge.

164 additional trees were located during the afternoon, as well as 10 shrubs and 2½ areas of thickets (one was only half located). The trees + shrubs and their abbreviations, in addition to the list on page 78, are as follows:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cc | (Cercis canadensis) | - Redbud |
| Cj | (Cydonia japonica) | - Japonica |
| Cs | (Catalpa speciosa) | - Catalpa |
| Fa | (Fraxinus americana) | - White Ash |
| Mp | (~~Maclura pomifera~~ Morus nigra, v.ar. Mulberry) | - ~~Osage Orange~~ |
| Pm | (Pyrus malus) | - Apple |
| Po | (Platanus occidentalis) | - Sycamore |
| Pi | (Populus nigra, v. italica) | - Lombardy Poplar |
| Pn | (Prunus ~~americana~~ angustifolia Chickasaw) | - ~~American~~ Plum |
| Qm | (Quercus macrocarpa) | - Bur Oak |
| Pv | (Populus virginica) | - Cottonwood |
| Rg | (Rhus glabra) | - Sumac |
| Sn | (Salix nigra) | - Black Willow |
| Sp | (Spiraea sp.) | - Spiraea |
| Sv | (Syringa vulgaris) | - Lilac |

This makes a total of 18 trees and 4 shrubs located so far. All names listed are subject to verification at a later date. Several of them are guesses at present.

Most of the trees are still quite dormant, but some of the shrubs are showing considerable bud swelling, including prominant green bud scales on Privet, ~~and~~ some roses and honeysuckle, and large flower buds on the Japonica and on some of the Spiraea.

There were perhaps half a dozen Trumpet Daffodils in flower today, including a second one picked and taken to Charnose.

The following birds were noted during the afternoon:- S.-c. Juncos (several small flocks)
English Sparrow (1 flock and several scattered)
Downy Woodpecker (♂+♀, paired)
Hairy Woodpecker (1).
Mourning Dove (pairing)
Robins (bathing, feeding)
T. Titmouse
Cardinals (establishing territories)
Song Sparrow (1)
Crows (flying over)
Red-sh. Hawks (4 - counting)
E. Redwings (flock of 75+)
Carolina
B.-c. Chickadee (singing - also calls)
Phoebes (2 - feeding, bathing)
Starlings (4 or 5, counting)(in top of cottonwood)
h- Blue Jay

The Phoebes are new to the list. I saw the pair arrive, about the middle of the afternoon. They made straight for Ryfldamere and promptly took a bath. Then they spent about an hour around the pond, feeding on insects over its surface, and generally enjoying the habitat, calling softly to each other. They were a joy to watch.

The Red-shouldered Hawks also put on quite an aerial show for a few minutes early in the afternoon, turning, diving and swooping around each other with rapid changes of altitude, frequently calling during the performance.

Several Purple Martins were omitted

from the above list.

Also observed was a Fox Squirrel, probably the same one noted on 6 January, 1950. This is the first record of it since that date. It was sitting on a limb high up in the Pin Oak near 8 Wayback, chewing on a nut, or similar object. Several minutes later I looked up just in time to see it disappearing into a nest of twigs near the top of the big Black Willow along the edge of Ryldamere, near the above Pin Oak. It was still early in the afternoon at the time and the afternoon was getting quite warm, but the squirrel apparently stayed put for the rest of the day.

Pseudacris and Rana sphenocephala were noisy and active in Ryldamere if I wasn't working too close to the edge of the pond. The Rana, especially, were kicking around the clear water.

During the afternoon 3 dogs showed up on the area, - a large white one with a few brown spots, - a similarly marked small white dog, - and a uniformly ~~marked~~ colored small red dog. None of them remained on the area more than a minute or so.

Two boys, estimated ages 10 or 12, showed up at the north end of the pond when school was out and threw a stick at the frogs. I called to them and they promptly departed, - apparently a bit "put out" at being stopped in their "play". They will probably bear watching in the future.

Doc S.

26 March, 1950 (Sunday)

The entire afternoon of

Saturday, 25 March, 1950
was spent in continuation of the mapping of the trees and shrubs at Paradox, as well as the taking of another roll of photographs. The entire northern edge was mapped, and most of the area north of the north drive, - between the drive and the edge - was completed. There still remains to be done a small centrally located area between the north drive and the north line, and the western central part of the area.

There were an additional 84 trees and shrubs plotted, plus 4½ areas of thickets. New trees and their abbreviations not recorded on pages 7.8 and 80 are:-

Dv (Diospyros virginiana) - Persimmon
Rs (Robinia pseudoacacia) - Black Locust
Sd (Salix discolor) - Pussy Willow
Sy (Salix alba, v. vitellina) - Golden Osier Willow.

This brings the total kinds of trees and shrubs on the area to 26. Correction, 25. The Golden Osier willow above is on the Brown's property, just across the line. There is none on Paradox. Incidentally, no Bur Oaks have been found on the property, but there are two on the Meister's property so close to the line that their branches actually do occur in Paradox. The Golden Osier Willow will also probably extend across the line within the next 2 or 3 years.

The Pseudacris showed their usual activity during the day, but the Rana sphenocephala seemed to have been less active than on Friday.

The following birds were noted during the afternoon: -

Golden-crowned Kinglet - (2)
Cardinals
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - (1)
Robins
Purple Martins
Mourning Dove
B.-c. Chickadee
Bewick Wren - (5 or 6) - travelling together.
Hairy Woodpecker
Redwings
Blue Jays - (3)
Phoebe (1)
Bronzed Grackles.
h-Killdeer
h-E. Meadow lark
h-English Sparrow
h-Starling

An unidentified Buteo hawk was observed in the distance. The Kinglets and Bewick's Wren were new records for Baradoxa. The two Golden-crowned Kinglets were keeping together. The Ruby-crowned was seen nearly the same time, but did not appear to be travelling with the golden-crowns. The Wrens were at first assumed to be Carolina Wrens, and it was not until they were seen that I discovered they were the Bewick Wren. Then I realized that the song, altho having something of the same quality of the Carolina Wren's song, was actually a different set of notes.

In general, the windiness of the day did not provide conditions very favorable for bird observation.

The photographs taken during the afternoon will be listed after they are returned from the processor's and are examined.

Today, Sunday, has been partly cloudy and very windy, with a short shower during the morning. A short visit to Paradox will probably be made later in the afternoon.

Doc S.

26 March, 1950 (later)

A visit was made to Paradox about 6 P.M. This was still half an hour before sunset, but the sun was just being completely obscured by dust at this time. The weather was dull enough to seem cloudy, tho actually there were only a few light thin clouds in the sky. The high winds from the southwest brought in tons of very fine dust which is covering everything — the worst I have seen since 1934, I believe.

I doubt that the rain this morning brought as much water as the high winds are removing, but there was enough to get the surface muddy and leave pools of water which remained thruout the rest of the day. The temperature remained rather high, causing a rapid development of the spring flowers and other vegetation.

At Paradox, some 30 Trumpet Narcissus were in bloom, plus a couple of the Double Narcissus. Several of these were bent over nearly to the ground — probably due to rapid water loss by the high winds. A bouquet of 18 of the

Trumpet forms and one Double Narcissus were brought in to Charnock. These quickly revived and became erect when placed in water.

A small light brown Crab Spider (Thomisidae) was found on one of the flowers.

The large Spiraea near the southwest corner of 8 Wayback had a number of flowers on it, especially on the southwest side of the bush. Most of the shrub, however, still appeared more or less dormant - perhaps dead. It is probably badly in need of pruning.

A few flowers of the Japonica (Cydonia japonica) were also opened. This bush will probably be in full bloom within a few days.

Birds observed during the brief visit were:-

Robin
Cardinal
Bluebird
Purple Martin
Redwing
Bronzed Grackle
S.-c. Junco

The piece of suet placed on the Apple tree yesterday (which I forgot to mention in the account of yesterday's activities) had been pecked at a number of times.

When Mrs. Kumm was out for a few minutes about Friday noon, he mentioned that a perusal of the abstract showed that there was only about 44 feet left in Lot 4 at the rear (east side) of the tract, although there was 47+ feet at the front (west) side. Since the front measured approximately correct,

it now seems that all boundary lines are correct as now established by the iron pins.

Doc S.

27 March, 1950 (Monday)

The Spiraea noted on the last page (86) was described in a shrub catalogue as Spiraea prunifolia, - "the true Bridal Wreath".

1 April, 1950 (Saturday) Doc S.

The dust storm noted on Sunday continued thru Monday, but not quite as severely as on the previous day.

On Tuesday morning (if I recall correctly) we had much cloudiness with a light snow flurry, not enough to accumulate on the ground, but with lots of cold wind. The following two mornings showed much frost, especially on the first one. The daffodils around the college looked very unhappy about it, but revived, apparently completely, later in the day. On Thursday evening

30 March, 1950

I made a brief visit to Paradocs where I noted violet plants making considerable growth and the privet hedge leafing out. I collected a bouquet of 11 Trumpet Daffodils from various parts of the area for Clarose.

During the visit the following birds were noted :- S.-C. Junco
Robin
Starling
Cardinal
B. Grackle
Redwing

Doc S.

2 April, 1950 (Sunday)

Yesterday, or 1 April, 1950, I spent the middle of the afternoon at Paradocs taking additional photographs of various flowers and trees which I had not previously taken. The Trumpet Daffodil season was nearly over, and I missed picturing them in their prime. The few I photographed yesterday were not very satisfactory. I also tried the Spiraea, but most of the flowers were on the east side of the bush near D Wayback while the light was on the west side. The plant apparently has not been pruned for years and there seems to be more deadwood in it than living shoots.

The plant in the best condition was the Cydonia japonica (Japonica) which was just in its prime. I tried a couple of shots of this. Most of the other photographs were of trees of the area.

The weather was still, warm, and mostly sunny when I started, but clouds came in from the west and I was handicapped by lack of light before I finished. I didn't finish the roll of film this time.

Both Rana sphenocephala and Pseudacris were active during the afternoon, especially the latter, but neither of them were as vigorous in their ~~dab~~ calling as they were 2 and 3 weeks ago.

For the 30th of March, I should also have noted that the Honeysuckle is making

considerable new growth. Since it has been more or less green all winter the new growth on it is less apparent than on the privet + similar shrubs.

The bird list for the afternoon is:-

Cardinals
B. Jays
Flickers (a pair courting in Cottonwoods)
English Sparrows
Mourning Doves (a pair mating in Silver Maple)
Robins
S.-c. Juncos (still migrating north)
Bewick Wrens (2 or 3 migrating).
Bluebirds
Starlings
h-Geese - unidentified
h-E. Meadowlarks
h-Red-shouldered Hawks
h-B.-c. Chickadees
h-Song Sparrows
h-Crows
Tufted Titmice (seen)

The geese were very far away, apparently flying very high, and in the direction of the sun. I scanned the sky with fieldglasses but failed to spot them. I only heard them about twice.

About 9:30 last night, after the Faculty Recognition Dinner, Dys and I visited Paradox together. It looked lovely in the moonlight shining thru a high thin layer of cirrostratus.

The Pseudacris soon started calling following the disturbance made by ~~the~~ Eros, Too coming in, and maintained their chorus most of the time, but seemed

to have quiet intervals of short duration even when there was no disturbance. The Rana sphenocephala remained quiet most of the time, but indulged in calling for short periods of time at rather long intervals. There were also other anuran calls, but we could not be sure whether these were from other species, or were variations of the calls of the two species which were there. I am inclined to think the latter - in fact, I am rather sure of it! At no time during our visit there did we hear the third anuran call which I have heard on several nights around Charrose. We again heard this strange call after returning to Charrose last night. I have wondered if it might be the Gopher Frog making this unknown call (basing my guess on its apparent wide distribution, - not limited to ponds, apparently) but I have no valid evidence to support this idea.

Doc S.

2 April, 1950 (night, now)

I stopped at the Pittsburg Garden Club Spring Flower Show about 5:45 this evening ~~and~~ on my way out to Baradoxa and found a goodly number of trees which had not been sold. These trees were left from the Garden Club tree planting project. Dr. R. G. Smith had suggested that any excess trees could be planted and sold later or used on the Memorial Drive project. I was curious as to who would do the planting, but it seems that I was the only one who showed up who could take

care of them. So I loaded them into Eros, too and took them with me out to Paradocs.

I figured that there would be no plants in the old chicken yard in the southeast corner of the area ("inside" the fence) except the peach trees and too much honeysuckle, so I dug an east-west trench about 15 feet long in the area and put in the trees. There were 89 Redbud, 2-3 foot stock, and 31 Hansen Bush Cherries, 18-24 inch stock. The trench was 15 to 18 inches deep, and the trees were crowded in and the roots covered. The roots of these plants, especially some of the Redbud, had become more or less dry due to careless handling at the flower show, and there may be some loss due to this.

Fortunately the day had been cloudy developing stormy conditions during the afternoon. There was lightening, thunder, some wind and very little rain up until about 6:30, although enough rain fell while I was digging the trench to moisten the surface. Then the rain increased, enough to wet the roots of the plants + at the same time make the soil a little muddy. I was rather wet by the time I had finished the job. The heaviest rain fell after I had returned to Chamose, - enough to do the "planting" (i.e. the heeling in) some good.

Which reminds me that Ryldamere has been drying up a bit the past

three or four days. The water level had dropped an inch or a little more.

Before leaving Chanose, I had cut up the small dead oak tree which had blown over 2 or 3 months ago. I had the cut wood in the deck of Eros, too at the time I ~~put the~~ picked up the trees at the flower show. By the time I had finished working with the trees, it was too dark to pile the firewood up with that previously cut, so I unloaded it (a couple of armloads) from the car and dumped it at the rear of 'S Waybach, to be stacked at a later date.

Only the usual birds were noted at Paradocs this evening, - Cardinals, Robins and Mourning Doves. Bronzed Grackles were heard.

Pseudacris was also heard, calling vociferously as ~~the~~ rain set in. Rana sphenocephala made himself heard faintly for 2 or 3 croaks, but otherwise remained silent. The unidentified animal was heard for the first time at Paradocs, but it seemed to be off in the distance to the southeast - in the direction of Chanose!

Doc. S.

16 April, 1950 (Sunday night).

I'm getting so far behind in these notes, it's going to be a real task to catch up - and keep up. Too many other activities - with a trip to Iowa (Cedar Falls) on ~~the~~ 6, 7 and 8 April ~~to~~ attend a regional

NCA conference, and a trip to Wichita the following week-end, 14 and 15 April, to attend a Kansas Academy of Science meeting, not to mention lesser affairs such as mid-term exams, and the Bert Harwell wildlife lecture.

As I recall, Dye and I made a brief visit to Paradox on 5 April, 1950, but no notes were made on this visit, which occurred about sunset. I believe there ~~was~~ little change from the conditions recorded on the 2nd of April.

On Monday, 10 April, 1950 I visited ~~the~~ Paradox about 4 P.M., remaining there about 3 hours to finish my map of the trees of the area. The day had been partly cloudy with variable winds which brought a shower about noon. This was followed by a strong southwest wind and a cloudless but hazy sky. I suspected dust, and a few minutes after four the heaviest dust storm I've seen since the mid-1930's arrived, reducing visibility to less than a mile and causing the sun to disappear completely while still well above the horizon. While visible at 4 P.M. it could scarcely cast a shadow even then.

The strong winds of the preceding several days, combined with a general lack of rain, had caused a noticable drop in the level of Ryeldamere, down perhaps an inch or more from its maximum level.

The following birds were observed

during the afternoon, according to the notes kept at the time. They were generally very inactive due to the high wind.

Purple Martins
Chimney Swifts.
Mourning Doves.
Bronzed Grackles.
Blue Jays
Robins.

Rana sphenocephala and Pseudacris were both heard during the afternoon, but neither were seen.

A dead garter Snake was found in the ditch along College, rather evidently a road kill in which the snake could crawl away several feet before dying. A live snake, perhaps 3 to 4 feet long was seen in the tall grass west of Ryeldamere, but it disappeared in the grass before I could get a satisfactory look at it. I tried to get it out but I failed to find it, so I presume it must have crawled into a hole someplace beneath the heavy grass.

A dark blue Swallowtail butterfly completes the list of animal forms noted.

The following plants were observed to be in flower:-

Amygdalys Persica - Peach
Cydonia japonica
Spiraea prunifolia - Bridal Wreath.
Viola papilionacea - many
Populus - Cotton woods
Muscari botryoides - Grape Hyacinth

Narcissus - long trumpet yellow.
Capsella bursa-pastoris - Shepperd's Purse.
Prunus angustifolia - Chickasaw plum.
Prunus hortulana - Wild Goose plum.
Ranunculus abortivus - Small-flowered Buttercup.
Narcissus - short-trumpet yellow.
? (Stellaria ?) - Small-flowered Chickweed

Fruits were noted on the following plants:
Capsella bursa-pastoris
Ulmus americana - American Elm.

Leaves were noted as showing up on these plants:-
Cydonia japonica
Viola papilionacea
Muscari botryoides.
Prunus virginiana (= P. serotina)
Acer saccharinum
various Roses
Prunus angustifolia
Syringa vulgaris - Lilac
Pyrus malus - Apple.

Neither flowers nor leaves were observed on the redbud, altho many of these plants were now in bloom around the city. Presumably our trees were too small yet for flower production.

The leaves on the Prunus virginiana (Black Cherry) made this tree easily spotted at this stage, as it contrasted sharply with the majority which was still in their winter domancy.

I'm getting too sleepy to write more. The rest will have to wait until later.

Dec. 8.

17 April, 1950 (Monday night)

To catch up on my narrative of past observations, it is necessary to go back to 11 April, 1950.
This visit was made on the ~~forenoon~~ afternoon of a clear and sunny day when there was very little wind. The cold air mass which was noted on the 10th was still present and the day remained cool. Ryeldamere seemed to have lost a little more water, probably by evaporation, and be still lower than it was ~~on the preceding day~~ on the preceding day.

It was because of the clear and quiet day that I was urged to take another group of photographs during the hour and a half I had available during the afternoon (from 1:30 to 3 P.M.). The following birds were noted during the photography:- Carolina Wren
Flicker
Mourning Dove.
Brown Thrasher
Chimney Swift
Red-bellied Woodpecker
B.-c. Chickadee (see notes for 16 April).
House Wren
h-English Sparrow
h-Purple Martin
h-Cardinal

Also noted was a large blue-green dragonfly, and the calls of Rana sphenocephala and a new species which has been tentatively identified by sound as Rana palustris - the Pickerel Frog with its distinctive "snoring" call.

The only change noted among the plants from Monday's list was a Dandelion (Taraxacum officinale) in bloom.

Sometime during the preceding few days the photographs made on 25 March were returned. They might as well be listed at this point, following the plan used on pages 72 and 73 of this journal.

Roll #70, Photo. 1.- 'S Wayback from the north.
" 2.- Ditto.
" 3.- 'S Wayback from the northwest.
" 4.- Sheds #1 (right) and #2 (left).
" 5.- Shelter and Shed #2.
" 6.- Brick pile and Shed #1.
" 8.- Cement blocks. Planted redbud to left. Doghouse in background.
" 7.- Old timbers. Brick pile and shelter.
" 9.- Pin Oak, Black Willow and S'Wayback.
" 10.- Sycamore.
" 11.- American Elm (left), Silver Maple (center).
" 12.- Chickasaw Plum thicket.
" 13.- Lombardy Poplar.
" 14.- West American Elm. Silver Maples background.
" 15.- Cottonwoods (from Meister property).
" 16.- Paradocs from center of west side.
" 17.- Paradocs from northwest gate.
" 18.- Rockpile near northwest gate.
" 19.- Brush pile near northwest corner.

The photography on 11 April completed the next roll (number 71) with just time enough to get back to my 3 o'clock class. The contents of this roll will be noted when the pictures are returned.

On the following evening, Wednesday 12 April, 1950 Dyc and I visited Paradocs briefly.

The day had been sunny, but there was a cool north wind. Frosts had occurred on the two previous nights, with the temperature getting down to 25°F. at its lowest point. The following birds were noted:- Mourning Dove.
Black-c. Chickadee (See 16 April).
Blue Jay
Carolina Wren
Cardinal
S.-c. Junco.
Robin
Brown Thrasher (in Plum thicket).
h- E. Meadowlark

Also heard was Rana palustris. Many small ants were observed excavating new nests in the "Y" of the drive.

The only change in plants noted was a single flowering plant of the Wild Pansy - (Viola Rafinesquii) - near the northeast "corner" of Ryldamere.

The ~~1st~~ next observation was made at night by Dys and myself on the evening of 15 April, 1950 as we were returning from the Academy of Science meeting at Wichita, even before we had reached home at Chanute. The day had been mostly sunny and the weather warming. The lack of rain was producing nearly drought conditions, with the soil beginning to crack in the most exposed places (but not observed at Paradox). However, Ryldamere again showed a definite drop in its water level.

a bat was observed over Ryldamere

and the area in general, but it could not be identified. Pseudacris and Rana palustris were heard calling. We flushed a Cardinal from the Privet around 'S Wayback.

About sunrise on the following morning, about 6 A.M. on Sunday, 16 April, 1950 I returned (alone) to Paradocs for about 2½ hours of early morning observations. The day was clear and sunny, and there was no wind. It was estimated that Ryldamere at this time is down about half way from its maximum height of a few weeks ago (from the 17th to the 22nd of March). This would indicate a depth of perhaps 4½ or 5 inches of water now left in the pond.

The following birds were recorded:-

Mourning Dove
Brown Thrasher
Bronzed Grackle
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Plumbeous Chickadee (See remarks) = carolina
Redwing
Cardinal
House Wren
Cowbird
Robin
English Sparrow
Crow
Starling
Eastern Meadowlark
Purple Martin
Eastern Kingbird
Brown Creeper
Downy Woodpecker

Tufted Titmouse
Blue Jay
h- Field Sparrow
h- Carolina Wren.

In Mr. Bert Harrell's lecture last Tuesday (April 11) he noted that the song of the Black-capped Chickadee consisted of three notes, thus:- — — —, while that of the Carolina Chickadee consisted of four notes like this — — — —. The bird I heard on this morning was singing the latter song. The western form of the Carolina Chickadee is Penthestes carolinensis agilis, the Plumbeous Chickadee, and this is the one which undoubtedly would occur here. The manuals list it as occuring in Oklahoma and Texas, but its range might also well include southeastern Kansas. Now I am wondering if the Black-capped Chickadee ever occurs here. I cannot recall whether the winter birds, when they occasionally did sing the song, sang the 3-noted or 4-noted variation. Perhaps all the chickadees listed thus far are the Plumbeous Chickadee.

A Robin was seen building a nest on the fence around the old chicken yard near the southeast corner of Pandora, but at the northwest corner of this fence, at a height of about 4 feet.

Two Fox Squirrels were seen in the big elm on the western side of the area, the first record of more than one of them.

A young Cottontail, perhaps 4 inches long, was flushed in the tall grass near the northwest "corner" of Ryldamere. It may

well have been raised in a nest located somewhere in the central or north central part of Paradox, hidden in the grass, the sumac shrubs, or perhaps among some of the rocks.

Several Robin feathers were scattered in the south drive near one of the lilac clumps, indicating that a robin had been attacked by a predator, but there was no evidence that a kill had occurred.

The following observations were noted concerning the plants of the area:-

Cydonia japonica - still flowering, producing a few leaves.
Viola papilionacea - flowering.
Spiraea prunifolia, - Bridal Wreath, - flowering.
Viola Rafinesquii - flowering.
Ulmus americana - fruiting. Some trees leafing.
Taraxacum officinale - flowering and fruiting.
Acer saccharinum - fruiting.
Prunus angustifolia (Chickasaw Plum) - flowering
Prunus hortulana - flowering.
Lamium amplexicaule - flowering.
Capsella bursa-pastoris - flowering, fruiting.
Narcissus - long trumpet yellow - flowering.
Amygdalus Persica - flowering.
Muscari botryoides - flowering.
Ranunculus abortivus - flowering
Populus , - Cottonwoods - flowering.

This brings me up to date, and I am too sleepy to write more.

Doc. S.

19 April, 1950. (Wednesday night).

Lyp was with me on a visit to Paradox this evening. Yesterday's rain had brought relief to the rapidly drying soil, so that the vegetation,

and animal life, too, looked much fresher than on recent visits. Ryeldamere was up perhaps half an inch, more or less, over Monday's level.

Our first observation was a Fox Squirrel on the base of the western Cottonwood tree. He (or she?) played around the area several minutes, running over to the Mulberry(?) for a few minutes, then back again, climbing the tree then down again, usually keeping one eye on the car which we had stopped on the entrance end of the drive. He finally seemed to decide that the car was harmless, so came hopping down the drive toward us, disappearing under the car, in which we had remained. Several moments later we spotted him climbing the American Elm on the west side of the lot. He continued out to the end of a limb and began feeding on elm fruits. During the time we were watching him, we commented on his sleek appearance and his bright colors, which shaded from a reddish brown on the back to almost a bright orange beneath.

We had been out of the car only a few moments to let the squirrel feed in peace and to observe other developments on the area, when we heard a thud from the area of the elm and looked around just in time to see the squirrel picking himself up off the ground and start climbing the tree again. Apparently he had got himself too far out on the end of a branch - or something!

During our visit, a couple of cottontails were also seen, one by Dye and one by myself, - apparently not the same one.

Pseudacris called a few times from Ryeldamere. The following birds were noted:- Cardinal
Robin
Downy ~~Wood~~pecker
Mourning Dove
Chimney Swift
Brown Thrasher
h-Eastern Meadowlark
h-English Sparrow
House Wren
Purple Martin
Redwing
Bronzed Grackle
Myrtle Warbler
Ruby-crowned Kinglet-?
h-Flicker

Among the flowers, I noted:-

Prunus hortulana - flowering completed.
Prunus angustifolia - nearly finished flowering.
Populus - Cottonwood - dropping (♂) catkins.
Amygdalis Persica (Peach) - flowering nearly finished.
Cydonia japonica - still in flower, - more leaves.
Quercus palustris (Pin Oak) developing ♂ catkins.
Narcissus - No flowers were observed on any plants.
Viola Rafinesquii - 4 plants in flower near the locality where I was observed earlier.
a tiny white-flowered mustard unidentified, located in the cleared north edge.

I'm asleep again.

Dec. 8.

21 April, 1950 (Friday night).

Dyp and I were out to Paradox for some 15 or 20 minutes shortly before sunset this evening. The day had been mostly warm and sunny with a moderately strong wind from the southwest. Ryeldamere was dropping again, apparently down half and inch, more or less, since Wednesday.

We spotted one of the squirrels on the base of a cottonwood soon after our arrival, before we had left the vicinity of the car parked on the west end of the south trail. (We decided this evening to call these entryways "trails" rather than "roads", "drive" or "lane".). While we were standing on the trail near the front of the car the squirrel started toward us on the trail, standing upright 2 or 3 times en route to reassure himself that no danger was imminent. We remained nearly motionless. He came to a point about 2 feet from Dyp, standing up for a few moments at that point, then he hopped off the trail northward toward the large front elm. He disappeared in the grass, but a few moments later we saw him climbing the elm.

In the meantime, I already had the following list of birds well under way:- Robins
Mourning Doves
Chimney Swifts
Purple Martins
Cardinals

Bronzed Grackles
Myrtle Warblers
White-throated Sparrows - new observation.
h-House Wren
h-Ruby-crowned Kinglet
h-Brown Thrasher

No anurans were heard during our visit. We didn't remain long enough to get over the entire area. We had remained at school too long for this.

The delay at school was due to our viewing of the last two rolls of film of Paradox on the school's projector. The last of these rolls was returned today. This was Roll #71, and consists of the following series of photographs:-

Roll #71. Photo. 1 - Same as Photo. 2, but blurred.
Photo. 2 - Narcissus, south of 'S Wayback.
" 3 - Spiraea prunifolia. "Bridal Wreath" near 'S Wayback. Close-up, but very poor.
" 4 - Cydonia japonica
" 5 - Ditto - close up.
" 6 - Juniperus virginiana. Black Cherry in back.
" 7 - Apple tree (in center).
" 8 - Sumac thicket, along west edge.
" 9 - Double narcissus, along south trail.
" 10 - Black Cherry, south of Ryldamere.
" 11 - Ash (+ Bur Oak) near s.e. corner.
" 12 - Peach flowers. Black Cherry in back.
" 13 - Ditto. (Location: s.e. corner).
" 14 - Spiraea prunifolia, near 'S Wayback.
" 15 - Muscari botrioides - Grape Hyacinth.
" 16 - ? Stellaria
" 17 - Viola papilionacea, in south trail.
" 18 - Ranunculus abortivus, near 'S Wayback.
" 19 - Capsella bursa-pastoris, near 'S Wayback.
" 20 - Chickasaw Plum thicket, flowering.

Roll #71. Photo. 21 - Prunus hortulana - Wild Goose Plum.
" 22 - Prunus angustifolia - Chickasaw Plum

That's all tonight.

Doc. D.

22 April, 1950 (Saturday afternoon).

I awakened at about 5:30 this morning to consider the possibility of early morning observations at Paradox, but yesterday's strong southwest wind had continued thruout the night and the sky was cloudy - making observation conditions not particularly favorable - so I decided against it. Anyway I was too sleepy from staying up too late writing those notes.

However, Dyc and I did get out to Paradox shortly after 9 o'clock this morning, parking the car on the Y, facing toward Ryldamere. By this time, the clouds had begun to dissipate, tho the wind continued. We had been there a few minutes taking stock of what was around and had just started to leave Eros, too, when a bird with a white V on the end of its tail flew up from Ryldamere and headed straight in a northwest direction. Neither of us got a very good look at it before it disappeared. My first impression was Mourning Dove, Dyc also thought of Sparrow Hawk. We both discarded these ideas at once, however, due to the short tail, large size and straight flight of the bird. It took us 2 or 3 seconds or so to get around to thinking duck. Dyc got the idea first.

The habitat and markings soon narrowed the field to Mallard, - with the help of Peterson's Manual. We both feel that the bird seemed small for a Mallard — I would prefer Teal if there was any with similar markings — but we have no choice. We are only too aware of how deceptive size can be when it comes to bird watching. Starting with this bird, the morning's bird list is as follows: -

Mallard
House Wren
Robin (on nest containing 4 blue eggs).
Cardinal
English Sparrow
Purple Martin
Plumbeous Chickadee (call heard in vicinity).
Mourning Dove
h - Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker
Chimney Swift.
Cowbird
Myrtle Warbler
Blue Jay
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Brown Thrasher
Flicker
h - White-throated Sparrow
Tufted Titmouse
Carolina Wren
Crow
h - Bronzed Grackle
Starling.

A total of 20 species seen and 3 heard.

The Fox Squirrel was seen sitting in the big lower crotch of a cottonwood.

A small red-spotted Garter Snake was seen around the brush pile. I almost caught it. Nearby a Green Snake had been killed. The head was missing. The cause of death was undetermined, but there were several bruises on the back. My guess is boys, altho no marks of a beating were evident. It was lying in a coiled position, back up, indicating death after it had assumed this position.

Several rather bright orange butterflys were noted, among various other kinds.

The following plants were observed to be in flower:-

Viola papilionacea
Ranunculus abortivus
Capsella bursa-pastoris.
Spiraea prunifolia
Muscari botryoides
Taraxacum officinale
Stellaria?
Cydonia japonica
Amygdalis persica
Poa pratensis
Quercus palustris
Viola Rafinesquii
Lamium amplexicaule
Claytonia virginiana
Prunus angustifolia

The cottonwoods had completely dropped their catkins.

Fruits were noted on the following plants:
Capsella bursa-pastoris
Taraxacum officinale
Ulmus americana
Acer saccharinum - being shed.

The following woody plants were noted as leafing out:-

Amygdalus persica.
Honeysuckle.
Prunus virginiana (=serotina)
Symphoricarpos orbiculatus
Prunus angustifolius
Prunus hortulana
Acer saccharinum.
~~Except~~ Spiraea prunifolia
Syringa vulgaris

Except for such as may have been overlooked, the other woody plants have not yet produced leaves, altho several others have expanding buds or tiny leaves just barely beginning to show.

Cydonia japonica should be added to the above list.

Buds are conspicuous on Prunus virginiana.

No anurans were heard during the visit.

~~22 April~~ Dac. 2.

22 April, 1950 (Same night).

Dye + I again visited Paradox between 6:30 P.M. and dark. The sky was cloudless but the southwest wind remained strong. The weather continued rather warm.

The evenings bird list is:-

Bronzed Grackle
Chimney Swift
Myrtle Warbler
Mourning Dove.
Brown Thrasher
Cardinal
h- Carolina Wren
Purple Martin
Robin

h-House Wren
h-Crow

About sunset the first Pseudacris began to call. Later, with dusk well under way, we heard Rana sphenocephala calling quite actively, along with the Pseudacris. ~~The~~ I also heard the American Toad and a Tree Frog calling in the distance, but none from the area.

a Cottontail was flushed and a bat observed flying over Ryldamere as dusk set in.

Numerous small rapidly flying insects were noted skimming over the surface of Ryldamere, frequently touching the water's surface to send out little circles of ripples which intersected each other.

In addition to the flowers noted this morning a plant of False Garlic-

Nothoscordium bivalve

was observed just opening its flower.

Raspberries were noted as coming into leaf.

While looking at the Bronzed Grackles I thought I saw a bird or two which agreed with the description of Brewer's Blackbird, but I failed to note it again while observing the same group of grackles which were flying around the area, so I may have been mistaken and am not entering it on my list of birds of the area.

Doc. S.

P.S. Seems as if one can almost see the level of Ryldamere falling.

In looking up the Chickadees in the A.O.U. checklist, I found that the situation here seems to be very confusing so far as given ranges of the various subspecies are concerned. Here is what is stated with reference to their ranges in this part of the country:-

Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus - Black-capped Chickadee - southern Missouri, northward and eastward.

Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis - Long-tailed Chickadee - eastern Kansas and western Iowa, northward and westward.

Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis - Carolina Chickadee - central Missouri, southward and eastward.

Penthestes carolinensis agilis - Plumbeous Chickadee - northern Oklahoma and southward.

In winter, these ranges tend to extend considerably southward.

Don. S.

23 April, 1950 (Sunday afternoon)

Seven AM found Paradox with a cloudy sky, moderate temperature, and continued strong southwest winds (now blowing continuously for the third consecutive day).

Observation conditions were rather poor as a result, but the following birds were nevertheless recorded:-

English Sparrow
Robin (on nest)
Mourning Dove
House Wren
h-Crow

Chimney Swift
Purple Martin
h-Eastern Meadowlark
Cowbird
Brown Thrasher
h-Field Sparrow
Blue Jay
Sparrow Hawk
Cardinal
Western
Arkansas Kingbird
h-Carolina Wren
Solitary Sandpiper
h-White-throated Sparrow
Eastern Kingbird
h-Myrtle Warbler

Another bird seen in the privet hedge was apparently a Warbling Vireo, but lack of adequate observation prevented definite identification of the bird. It is not being counted.

The identifications of the Sparrow Hawks (two of them, one of them carrying something in its claws) and Arkansas Kingbird ~~was~~ were not difficult. The Sandpiper came in with a little whistle about 10:30 A.M. and I obtained an excellent observation of it, both with and without glasses. It remained around the south end of Ryldamere and was still there when I left about 11 A.M. Even driving by the end of the pond in Eros, Joe didn't frighten it away.

A Box Turtle found along the edge of Ryldamere was identified as Terrapene carolina triunguis in D.S. Jordan's Manual. This is the Southern form of the Box Turtle. It seemed to be in the process of shedding

some of the scales of its skin. - A couple of frogs plopped into the water ahead of me as I walked along the edge of Ryldaner, but no ammans were heard during the morning.

A tree at the south end of the Plum thicket was found to be in flower. It seems to be a cherry tree but I wasn't sure of this recognition.

The following plants were observed to be in leaf in addition to those noted yesterday (page 109). No doubt all of these were out yesterday and should have been recorded then, but were simply overlooked. Some of them have been in leaf a week or more (i.e. privet + rose).

Malus pumila (Apple) (= Pyrus malus)
Ligustrum vulgare (Privet)
Cornus stolonifera
Clematis ?
Salix nigra
Rosa sp. (cultivated)
Prunus avium ? (Cherry ?)

No flowers were left on the peach (Amygdalus Persica) today.

I should have noted on the last page that the Sandpiper seemed to be feeding on something in the water. There seemed to be an abundance of food, for it didn't have to do any hunting for whatever it was getting.

Most of the morning was spent in clean-up work on the area. Three or 4 loads of wire and scrap metal were collected from along the north side of the area and carried to the shelter - which already had considerable scrap metal in it. Then some brushy limbs which a week or so ago

were gathered from the area and stacked near the old timbers (the date was 16 April) were moved to an area near the north edge which we have selected as the location of a "permanent" brush pile. The object of this brush is to create a brush pile habitat for rabbits, wrens and such other biota as prefer such places. In moving the brush to the new area, only the more bushy limbs were used. The dead limbs with few branches were broken up for firewood. Several other dead and down branches were also collected from the area (including some in Ryfdamere itself - See 5 March, 1950 - page 64) and added to the brush pile or firewood pile. Three armloads of firewood were obtained during the morning.

Next I got out my new pruning shears (one of several purchases made for Paradocs yesterday morning) and went to work on the Spirea and Privet to the southwest of 'S Wayback, and on the Privet, Elm and Dogwood north of 'S Wayback. I finally got these paths cleared out to the place where one can get thru them without difficulty. The resulting brush was added to the new brushpile.

This write-up has been interrupted by the working out of a general plan for the area. The following habitats and areas have been proposed and tentatively located. These will be included on a map as soon as the detail are a little more specific.

house area - lawn, - short grass - tall grass - sumac thicket - crataegus thicket - brush pile - woods - compost heap - plum thicket - open water surface - open water edge - brushy (border) water edge - reed border - horticultural area (this around 'S Wayback) - fire place area (in front of 'S Wayback) - Service area - low shrubs - tall shrub borders - and garden area.

It's time now to take the Box Turtle back to Ryeldamere.

Loc. S.

23 April, 1950 (That night!)

Three photographs of Terrapene were taken along the edge of Ryeldamere as it was released. It was too windy to photograph anything else.

Bird noted this evening which were not on the morning list were:-

4- Eastern Goldfinch
Tufted Titmouse
Plumbeous Chickadee
Flicker
Myrtle Warbler
Bronzed Grackle.

A Blue Racer snake (Coluber constrictor flaviventris of Jordan's Manual) some 2 to 3 feet long was found near the west end of the north trail. It seemed to be docile and in good condition, but it showed an old, apparently not serious, injury on its back.

A Cottontail was also found on the area.

The Apple (Malus pumila) was in flower this afternoon, but was specifically noted as not being in bloom this morning.

Some clean-up was done during this visit, with paper being assembled at the fireplace area for burning, and metal scrap in the service area (just east of the V) for hauling away. This process can go on at an accelerated rate when I get a wheelbarrow.

Several of the new tools were taken to 'S Waybach for storage — the first of our property to remain on the place. Mrs. Kumm still does not have all of his books and other property removed from 'S Waybach, tho he now has the bulk of it out. He hasn't yet touched the junk (& it looks like junk!) in the sheds.

Doc. S.

3 May, 1950 (Wednesday night)

I'm very busy these days. Can't keep up with this record. On Saturday,

22 April, 1950

Dyp and I spent some time in the morning at Paradocs, and Dave returned for another visit during the afternoon.

Hold everything! I already have this visit recorded. I started writing this up from my field notes. I didn't cross off these records when I had finished transferring them to the Journal.

The next visit after the 23rd of April was on

Friday, 28 April, 1950.

I visited Paradocs after school, since I knew I would not be able to make observations on Saturday or Sunday due to our attendance at the 2nd annual meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society at

Topeka. Friday was cloudy and cold with a strong northeast wind. A shower in the morning was not heavy enough to affect the level of Ryldamere. - ~~Be~~

Ryldamere was so low at this time that the brush pile in the center was no longer an island, the water occurring only on the west side of the brush. The depth of the water was probably only about 2 inches deep at the deepest spot.

When I drove by the south end of the pond, I startled a Green Heron which ran toward the north end of the water, but didn't fly. After watchful waiting for a few minutes, it resumed its fishing for tadpoles or whatever other animal life was present and appetizing. The day was too cold & windy to permit much bird activity, and only the following were noted:-

Green Heron
Cardinal
4 - House Wren
Robin
Chimney Swift
Mourning Dove
White-throated Sparrow.

The following flowers were noted to be in bloom

Lilac (lavandar)
Apple
White Narcissus
White Clover

Also the Pink Dogwood across the line on the Meister property.

Nearly all woody plants were ~~not~~ now producing leaves except the Persimmon (?), Lombardy Poplar, Ash, Catalpa & most Sumac

a few of the buds were beginning to leaf out.

Upon our return from Topeka on Sunday

30 April, 1950

Dyp + I stopped briefly at Baradocs after dark and noted that the Friday night and Saturday night rains had brought the level of Kyledamere up an inch or two. No items of biological significance were noted. There were no amphibian calls, or bird calls, either.

On Tuesday afternoon,

2 May, 1950

I visited Baradocs for an hour and a half, since the time was favorable for photography. While taking 8 or 10 photographs of the flowers of the area (these will be listed later when the entire contents of the roll of film are listed), the following birds were listed:- Olive-backed Thrush

Chimney Swift

Robin

White-throated Sparrow

Myrtle Warbler

Brown Thrasher

Cowbird

Baltimore Oriole

House Wren

Goldfinch

h - Carolina Wren

Plumbeous Chickadee

Purple Martin

Wood Thrush

English Sparrow

Red-eyed Towhee

h - Warbling Vireo

Orchard Oriole

Cardinal

Bell's Vireo
h-Mourning Dove
Cooper Hawk
Blue Jay
Maryland Yellowthroat.

I returned about 6:30 P.M. and added the following birds to this list:-

h-Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Flicker
American Bittern
Tufted Titmouse
Kingbird
h-Chipping Sparrow
h-Crow
Bronzed Grackle

Dop visited Paradox from 5:30 P.M. until we both left, and during her period of bird watching saw those checked in red, hearing those marked with a red h. In addition to the above, she also listed the following:- Red-headed Woodpecker
Catbird
Starling
Song Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Phoebe h

The Bittern was accidentally spoted flying high overhead, going north. Its brownish underparts & black wing tips were clearly recognized thru the field glasses.

A Cottontail was seen north of Waybach, very much unafraid.

I didn't have time to check carefully the flowers now in bloom on the area. Those photographed are of course recorded elsewhere.

Doc S.

P.S. A note should be added concerning the Bell Vireo. It flew back & forth over Ryeldamere several times, almost flycatcher style, then started picking up insects from the surface of the water itself, splashing into the shallow water with each catch, then returning to a perch to shake off the [illegible] food water before repeating the process. This behavior was entirely new to me.

Voe S.

4 May, 1950. (Thursday evening).

Up at 5:30 this morning and out to Baradoes before 6, where, under a cloudy sky with a warm southerly moderate to strong wind, the following birds were listed:- Louisiana Water thrush
Myrtle Warbler
Downy Woodpecker
Mourning Dove
Crow
House Wren
Catbird
Chimney Swift
Flicker
Cardinal
Brown Thrasher
h- Arkansas Kingbird (?) - maybe.
Purple Martin
Orchard Oriole
h- Blue Jay
Goldfinch
Eastern Kingbird
h- Carolina Wren
Tennessee Warbler
h- Red-headed Woodpecker

Indigo Bunting
h-Tufted Titmouse
Robin (on nest).
Starling.
Least Flycatcher
Lesser Yellowlegs
Green Heron
h-Redwing
h-Bronzed Grackle

To this list were added:-

Phoebe
Plumbeous Chickadee

after school ~~this~~ evening.

More birds could no doubt have been listed this morning if I hadn't had to shut up shop at 7 AM to get to school. A Virco was heard, for example, but there was no time to investigate it. The wind also made observation difficult.

The Yellowlegs and Green Heron arrived just as I was getting into ~~the~~ Eros, too to leave. I had to frighten them away in my own leaving the area.

I returned to Paradox at 5 P.M. with Mr. Smith of the Lakeside School to obtain some of the Buck Chevis and a Redbud. It was still cloudy, warm and quite windy. As a result, few birds were seen.

During the visit, Dyer & I noted that Mr. Kumm had removed still more from the Wayback, so that it was now nearly empty.

An American Toad was heard calling during the morning in the distance.

Doc. S.

5 May, 1950 (Friday night).

During a brief visit about 6 o'clock this evening, it was noted that the continuous high wind of the past 2 or 3 days had evaporated more water from Bryldawn than the rather light rain this morning had added. The brush pile in the center was not at all island-like, and the greatest depths of water was only an inch or two. The day had been sunny as well as windy, but the rather pale appearance of the sun late in the afternoon suggested considerable diffuse dust in the air.

During our visit, Ilys and I listed the following birds from Paradox:-

Black and White Warbler
Maryland Yellowthroat
House Wren
Brown Thrasher
Mourning Dove
Eastern Kingbird
Blue Jay
Red-eyed Towhee
White-throated Sparrow
Chimney Swift
Goldfinch
Crow
Purple Martin
Robin
Flicker
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Empidonax Flycatcher (species undetermined)
Yellow Warbler
Cardinal

The lovely Bedstraw Crab (according to

Dyp - previously listed as an apple in the southwest part of the area) was already beginning to turn brown. It was beautiful, but doesn't last long. ~~In checking~~

In checking the bird list, I note that the Wilson Warbler was omitted.

Doc. S.

6 May, 1950 (Saturday night).

The afternoon at Baradoc was warm and sunny, with a light southerly wind. Ryldamere had shriveled to a puddle some 6 feet across and about an inch deep.

The bird list for the afternoon is:-

Song Sparrow
Catbird
Robin
Brown Thrasher
House Wren
Purple Martin
White-throated Sparrow
Blue Jay
Mourning Dove
Myrtle Warbler
Cardinal
Chimney Swift
Orchard Oriole
Cowbird
h. Maryland Yellowthroat
English Sparrow
h-Plumbeous Chickadee
Eastern Kingbird
Indigo Bunting
Yellow Warbler
Arkansas Kingbird
Tufted Titmouse

Empidonax Flycatcher (sp?)
h-Red-headed Woodpecker
Black and White Warbler
h-Crow
Baltimore Oriole
h-Bobwhite

A pretty little gray Tree Frog was found perched on top of the opened door to the toilet.

I haven't begun to keep up with the floral sequence the past week or so. The Pin Oaks have dropped their catkins, the Mulberry are in bloom, also the Asparagus, which seems to be commonly distributed over much of the area. The Wild Cherry (Prunus virginiana [=P. serotina]) are gloriously covered with masses of delicate white floral racemes. There is quite a nice bed of a Potentilla with lovely yellow flowers in the southeast corner of the area. Even the Hansen Bush cherries which were heeled in in the same corner have scattered small flowers on them. The Paper-white narcissus are still in flower, but are past their prime. - These items are written from memory, - I have no idea how much else there would be if I made a search and record of it.

The Robin's nest (the only nest I have found on the area thus far) today contained two newly hatched chicks and one unhatched egg. I have no idea what happend to the fourth egg.

Doc. D.

P.S. a Field Sparrow was also heard.
Doc. D.

7 May, 1950 (Sunday night).

We stopped for a time during the middle of the afternoon at Paradox on our "century run" bird watching to record the following species on the area:-

House Wren
Chimney Swift
Plumbeous Chickadee
Wilson's Warbler
Catbird
Robin
Mourning Dove
Baltimore Oriole
Brown Thrasher
Alder Flycatcher
Field Sparrow
Phoebe
Blue Jay
House Sparrow (= English Sparrow)

The Alder Flycatcher was the only one seen during the day. There is some question as to its identity, since no song record was obtained. Actually it is a sight record of an "Empidonax", but we got a good look at it, and all markings and habits seemed to point consistently to the Alder.

There was no standing water left in Ryldamere. The bottom was very muddy, and there were sufficiently large pockets of water among the leaves to permit some birds to get a drink, but this condition won't last long. — I am looking forward to the time when we can provide permanent water in the pond.

Three snakes were seen around the brush pile in the center of Ryldamere:-

Natrix
Blue Racer
Garter Snake.

The weather today was quite variable,- starting out lovely but becoming cloudy with a frontal passage from the southeast (!) accompanied by cooling winds and a light shower of rain - scarcely enough to wet the surface. I am guessing that the wind plus the relatively dry weather reduced the bird activity sufficiently today so that I didn't make my list of 100 birds. The most I could find was 88.

Dor D.

10 May, 1950 (Wednesday night)

I visited Barados briefly about 6 P.M. on 8 May, 1950 (Monday) and found a puddle of water about 6 feet in diameter and half an inch deep in Ryldamere, following a rain on Sunday night. No records were made on the few birds seen during this visit.

On the following evening, Tuesday 9 May, 1950 I up and I spent about half an hour at Barados. There had been a brief shower during the morning followed by a rather high wind during the day. The wind had evaporated more water than had fallen during the shower, so that Ryldamere was again without standing water. The bottom, however, was still quite muddy beneath a solid cover of decaying leaves and

scattered sticks and stones. The weather at the time of the visit was cloudy and still, with the temperature moderate.

The following birds were listed:-

Chimney Swift
House Wren
h-Cardinal
Mourning Dove
Empidonax flycatcher
h-Maryland Yellowthroat
Brown Thrasher
Goldfinch
Purple Martin
Robin
Bronzed Grackle
h-Flicker
h-Orchard Oriole
h-Carolina Wren
Bluebird
Catbird

The following plants were noted as being in flowers at the time of the visit:-

Spiraea (Van Houtte ?)
Viburnum? (High bush Cranberry ?)
Galium
Morus rubra
Iris (several cultivated varieties)
Capsella bursa-pastoris
Ranunculus abortivus
Trifolium repens
Narcissus, paper-white
Bechtel Crab
Syringa vulgaris (2 or 3 varieties)
Asparagus officinalis
Prunus Virginiana (=P. serotina)
Snowball

Taraxacum officinale
Nothoscordium bivalve.

It seems that the last general listing of flowering plants was made on 22 April. Of this list, the following were not observed to be in flower on this date:- Viola papilionacea, Spiraea prunifolia, Muscari botryoides, Stellaria?, Cydonia japonica, Amygdalys persica, Quercus palustris, Viola Rafinesquii, Lamium amplexicaule, Claytonia virginiana, and Prunus angustifolia. The Poa pratensis listed at that time still seemed to bad when examined on this date. The apple observed in flower on 28 April was also not now in flower. The pink dogwood on the lot to the south was now rapidly loosing its flowers, also.

This list does not pretend to represent a complete survey of Paradoxes, but represents only those observations made during the rather short visit.

Today, on 10 May, 1950, following a gentle rain lasting most of last night (starting just as we left Paradox) and much of today, we again briefly visited Paradox + found some 6 inches of water in Ryeldamer which filled the bottom nearly as far north as the fallen willow. The Pseudacris were calling vigorously for the first time in weeks.

A couple of Bobwhite hurried down the path on the west side of Ryeldamer as we drove up. This is our first sight record of this species.

This reminds me that a few days ago (perhaps last Sunday) we found several feathers in the north trail which

had come from the wings dark tail of a Flicker. It looked is if something had attached and knocked a few feathers loose from the bird without actually getting it.

No other records were made on Paradors today, as our visit was too brief. It started raining again before we left.

During yesterday's visit we noted that Mr. Kumm had removed more of his property from 'S Wayback, - even to cleaning out the fireplace - but there are still a few items left. We also noted that someone (probably a boy) had shot a couple of holes in one of the west windows, apparently with a B-B gun, - and apparently recently.

Don S.

13 May, 1950 (Saturday night)

Following a rather sunny day, the sky became mostly cloudy by 6 P.M., at the time of my visit to Paradors. There was little wind and the temperature was mild. There was still about 6 inches of water in Ryldamere, possibly a trifle higher than on the 10th.

The following list of birds were recorded:-

Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Chimney Swift
Cardinal
House Wren
Mourning Dove
Yellow Warbler
Robin (with 3 healthy young in nest)
English Sparrow
h-Crow

Mockingbird
h-Bobwhite
White-throated Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
Purple Martin
Blue Jay
Maryland Yellowthroat
h-Eastern Kingbird
h-Carolina Wren
Starling
h.-~~Crested Flycatcher~~ Arkansas Kingbird ? ? (See 14 May).

I still can't be sure of the difference in the calls between the Arkansas Kingbird and Crested Flycatcher, and apparently both of them occur here, so I don't know which of the two the above was.

During the visit three amnran calls were heard:- ~~Unk~~

American Toad (Bufo americanus)
Tree Frog (several of them in the trees)
Rana palustris (see 17 April)

There was also seen a small spotted green frog in the grass along the north edge of the lot, but when I went to catch it, it had disappeared. I still don't know where it went to, nor what kind it was.

No record was made of the flowers, but I can mention that there were quite a number of iris in bloom in various parts of the area, and of several different varieties. Rumex acetosella was in flower around the north lane gate, and there was almost a carpet of Eleocharis in the very northwest corner of the area near the Brown's drain. It was in full flower. - Hor. S.

14 May, 1950 (Sunday morning)

At 8 A.M. Paradoxe was under a cloudy sky - the sun occasionally breaking thru, - with mild temperatures and a light wind. No change in the level of Ryldamere.

The following birds were noted:-

Catbird
Cardinal
House Wren
Crow
Chimney Swift
Mourning Dove
Arkansas Kingbird (white tailfeathers seen)
Blue Jay
Indigo Bunting
Robin (with young).
Carolina Wren
Purple Martin
h-Maryland Yellowthroat
Goldfinch
Orchard Oriole
h-Tennessee Warbler
Bell Vireo
h-Eastern Meadowlark
Cowbird
h-Red-headed Woodpecker
h-Tufted Titmouse
h-Least Flycatcher

In addition, ~~the~~ Fox Squirrel was seen (for the first ~~time~~ since 22 April) in the top of the Silver maple at the north end of Ryldamere.

Also:- h-Rana palustris
and h-Bufo americanus
were both heard on the area.

There is so much work to be done

on the area. I do a little from time to time as I get a chance, but it is only about enough to keep up with developments of nature, or not quite that. It doesn't make any significant change toward what we wish the area to become. Most urgent at present is to get an open area of lawn and short grass.

Wish I could work there this afternoon, but I have final exams to make out today.

Lor. D.

14 May, 1950 (The Same Night).

An evening visit, made shortly before sunset with somewhat clearer skies, added the Wood Thrush also Eastern Kingbird.
and Eastern Nighthawk
to this morning's list.

Several bats were observed flying around at dusk, and Rana sphenocephala was heard giving a very few weak calls.

While there, I hauled a couple of arm loads of brush into the service area and broke it up into fireplace length. There still remains much of this to be done.

Lor. D.

16 May, 1950 (Tuesday night)

I took an hour off during the afternoon for a few more photographs at Paradocs, - especially Iris and the Snowball. The day was warm and sunny, with a moderate to light wind. Yesterday would have been better with almost ~~not~~ no wind and lots of sunshine.

Ryeldamere was down about another inch, and had a "scum" over most of the surface. I guessed that the scum was from the decaying leaves in the warm weather, plus much pollen from the grasses now coming into flower, plus other such natural sources. There seemed to be plenty of insect life in the water, plus several frogs which would plop in as I walked by. We are having a thunder-shower tonight which I hope will be sufficient to raise the water level significantly.

The following birds were recorded:-

Chimney Swift
Blue Jay
House Sparrow
Catbird
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
House Wren
Yellow Warbler (numerous)
~~X~~-Purple Martin
Hairy Woodpecker
h-Maryland Yellowthroat
Arkansas Kingbird
h-Starling
Brown Thrasher
Goldfinch
h-Indigo Bunting
h-Tufted Titmouse
Orchard Oriole
Cardinal
Phoebe
Robin
h-Mockingbird

The Robins nest was empty, tho I

was one the nestlings weren't large enough to fly yet. A wing with half-grown quill feathers on the ground nearby bespoke the tragedy. — A predator. My guess is - cat.

No list of plant phenology was kept, but Trifolium pratense (Red Clover) and Robinia pseudoacacia (Black Locust) were observed in flower today for the first time this year.

Doc. S.

17 May, 1950 (Wednesday night).

Dys + I were again at Paradox for a short time after school. Last night's rain of less than a half inch had brought the level of Ryldamere up nearly one inch. It had also settled most of the surface scum mentioned yesterday.

We noted that Mrs. Kumm had moved a cupboard and an old chest out onto the porches, - probably so that they could be picked up by a dray. The last of the old record journals had also been removed.

No new biotic phenology ~~had~~ was observed, and no records of biotic forms present were made.

Doc. S.

20 May, 1950 (Saturday afternoon)

During a short visit after school yesterday - 19 May, 1950 (Friday), during which the weather was mild and sunny, with almost no wind, it was noted that there was little change in the level of Ryldamere in spite of a thundershower early in the morning which

brought a little over one-third of an inch of rain. The water evaporation seems to be approximately keeping pace with the rainfall.

The following birds were listed:-

Wilson Warbler
Cardinal
Phoebe
Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Baltimore Oriole
Mourning Dove
h-House Wren
Robin
h-Catbird
Goldfinch
h-Maryland Yellow throat
h-Starling
Bronzed Grackle.

Dyp called my attention to a couple of rose bushes in flower south of the south trail, which had small, pale single flowers. I hadn't previously seen roses quite like these. The bushes themselves were large and thorny. I haven't had time to determine the kind that these might be.

Doc. S.

22 May, 1950 (Monday evening)

Dyp visited Paradoxa yesterday morning — Sunday, 21 May, 1950 for a short time and reported Tradescantia in flower along the west fence, especially near the north trail gate. She also noted a sharp drop in the water level of Wyldamere.

This evening - 22 May, 1950, Ryldamere was again only a puddle some 6 or 8 feet across and an inch or so deep, following a couple of warm days with a light to moderate wind.

The first of the peonies was in bloom today, as was also a large pink cultivated Rose. The small single-flowered rose was a beautiful mass of nearly white blossoms.

Few birds were seen during the short visit, and no record of them was kept. There was nothing new.

Doc. S.

10 June, 1950 (Saturday night)

Since the last entry, there have been final exams, - a trip to western Kansas, - and the start of the summer session at school. There have been a couple (three or four) of visits to Paradoxes during this period which were not recorded at the time, but on which notes were made and are now entered in this journal. The first of these was on

24 May, 1950 (Wednesday)

at 6 P.M. The sky was partly cloudy and the weather windy. Ryldamere had no water, altho the bottom was still moist. The following birds were recorded:- Cardinal

Mourning Dove
Chimney Swift
h- House Wren
h- English Sparrow
Phoebe
h- Baltimore Oriole
Purple Martin.

Then from 6 to 7 P.M. on
30 May, 1950 (Tuesday)
on a cool, sunny, still day following a heavy, cold-frontal thunderstorm the previous day, we noted that Ryldomere still had no standing water in it, although the water level was less than an inch below the bottom of the pond (as measured in a hole in the earth end). We are puzzled by this as the newspaper recorded 8/10 ~~ths~~ of an inch of ~~rain~~ rain during the thunderstorm about 32 hours earlier. That amount of water should have lasted several days, we thought — but it didn't. Was the evaporation that high? Does water seep out of Ryldomere underground? Do the numerous crayfish burrows lead to underground drainage. Or do the surrounding trees absorb and transpire water ~~that~~ rapidly when they have it available? Or are all of these hypotheses incorrect? — or jointly operative?

The lack of water in Ryldomere didn't seem to bother the birds, as indicated by this list of 21 recorded species:-

Arkansas Kingbird
Catbird
h Blue Jay
Chimney Swift
Cardinal
Robin
House Wren
Indigo Bunting
Brown Thrasher
h Crow

Hairy Woodpecker
h-Mockingbird
Mourning Dove
Bell Vireo
Maryland Yellow throat
Purple Martin
Orchard Oriole
h-Plumbeous Chickadee
Nighthawk
Cedar Wax wing
Eastern Kingbird
& Fox Squirrel was again observed, for the first time since 14 May.

The following insects were listed:-
Mosquitoes
Bumble bees
Honey bees
h-Crickets

Among the plants observed to be in flower were the following:-
Specularia perfoliata
Pentstemon sp.
Ligustrum vulgare (Privet)
Honeysuckle
Red rambler rose.

Then on Wednesday morning, on
31 May, 1950
as we left town on our trip into western Kansas, we again stopped briefly at Paradox and recorded the
Fox Squirrel
and the following birds:-
Nighthawk (roosting on Cottonwood limb).
Robin
Cardinal
h-House Wren

Mourning Dove
Catbird
h-Phoebe
h-Arkansas Kingbird

Some of the birds were hanging around to feed on the abundant crop of mulberries on the mulberry tree.

Four days six hours and 1010 miles later, on 4 June, 1950 (Sunday) we again stopped at Paradox on our return from western Kansas. This time we observed nothing of interest except both of the Fox Squirrels, the first time the two had been recorded since early in the year.

We should be due for another visit there tomorrow. We shall see!

Vor S.

11 June, 1950 (Sunday night)

I did visit Paradox during the afternoon, but forgot pencil + notebook, so didn't get a list of observed birds. There was a Cooper's Hawk being mobbed by many small birds, and a Fox Squirrel in a Cottonwood. There were many birds on the area, and the list would have been rather good sized if it had been kept, — headed by Cedar Waxwings, perhaps.

I took 4 photographs on the area, — the last exposures on that roll of film, — then spent the remainder of the time in trimming woody growth from various paths around 'Wayback and Rylda-mere. Several armloads of brush were removed.

I should note that Ryldamere was dry, and that the day was mostly sunny and with little wind.

Doc S.

24 June, 1950 (Saturday afternoon).

It was 18 June, 1950 (Sunday) before Baradoco was again visited. I spent the entire afternoon there, starting out by taking several photographs and making a list of birds and plants, before getting down to some work. The day was partly cloudy and rather windy, warm and dry. It had been relatively dry for a week or so, during which time there has been no water in Ryldamere.

The bird list for the afternoon follows:-

Robin
h- Bob-white
House Wren
Catbird
Purple Martin
Cardinal
Mourning Dove
Chimney Swift
h- Maryland Yellowthroat
Blue Jay
Orchard Oriole
h- Cuckoo (sp?)
Goldfinch
Carolina Wrens (fighting)
Red-eyed Towhee
h- Indigo Bunting
Brown Thrasher
Downy Woodpecker
h- Crow

Flicker

The Flicker was visiting just outside of D'Wayback, picking up ants from around the roots holding a flower bed near the front porch. It was within 6 or 8 feet of me.

The Carolina Wrens put on the severest fight I have ever seen among birds. Two of them were in the north end of Rylstamere, scolding and diving at each other, rapidly losing altitude until both were on the ground among the leaves. Here they attacked each other with bills and feet, getting their claws into each other so firmly that neither could fly. Still there was much flutter and commotion for a minute or more, until both were so exhausted that both lay quietly on their backs, still clinging to each other. They then let go after about a minute and repeated the entire cycle of events again. At first one would flutter up from the leaves long enough to dive at the other, which would then make its attack while the first bird was still on the ground. When both were up at the same time, they would tie up together so that neither could fly. After 5 minutes of this, more or less, during which the rest periods were becoming longer, they got up into some low branches, and altho they frequently attacked each other, they didn't tangle. By this time, one of them seemed to be the more aggressive, and attacked most

often, but the other one was not yet licked and would fight back whenever attacked. A minute or two later a third Carolina Wren appeared with much energy and much loud singing (not the scolding notes that the other two birds had used). It approached close to the other two birds and to one side, ~~→~~ taking the position of the referee at the start of ~~the~~ a fencing duel, while singing. The other two birds seemed to pay no attention to it. After ~~each~~ another attack or two, the third bird chanced one of the two combatants away, - I couldn't tell which one. At first the chased bird wouldn't go far, but circled around and came right back to its antagonist. The third bird kept at it, however, chasing it farther and farther away - at first only a foot or so, then 3 or 4 feet, then 12 or 15 feet, until eventually it was out of sight (which is not far in the dense trees & shrubs of the area). Even after I thought the one bird had gone, it flew back again, flying down our "tunnel path" within about a foot of me, with the third bird still after it. The last I saw of them was when they went over the corner of 'S Wayback and off toward the southeast. The remaining combatant was still perched in one of the nearby trees when I left it and went on about other activities.

The "tunnel path" is the one on the

east side of Ryldamere, so called from its appearance after I trimmed the brush and branches from it on 11 June.

Other animals observed during the afternoon were:- Fox Squirrel
Terrapin
Tree Frog.

The Terrapin was a large one observed in the north end of Ryldamere. The Tree Frog was sitting very comfortably perched in the entrance to the woodpecker hole in the Silver Maple (See pages 15 and 71 for reference to this hole).

The following plants were observed to be in flower on this date:-

Trifolium repens
Erigeron sp.
Juncus tenuis
Asparagus officinalis
Rosa,- red rambler
Achillea millefolium
Sambucus canadensis
Panicum sp.
Honeysuckle sp.?
Plantantago major.
Hemerocallis fulva
Commelina communis
Melilotus alba
Rosa - pink rambler
Apocynum cannabinum
Rhus glabra?
Rhus sp.
Allium sp.
Catalpa speciosa?
Pentstemon sp.

The following plants were observed to be in fruit on this date. A few of these are also listed as flowering at the same time:- Morus rubra
Poa pratensis
Vitis (young grapes)
Asparagus canadensis
Rubus - cultivated black raspberry
Rumex sp.
Allium canadense?
Orchard grass
Tradescantia reflexa
Rumex acetosella.
Syringa vulgaris
Prunus virginiana
Iris - cultivated.

I could look up some of the scientific names for these if I took the time for it.

I should have mentioned at the top of page 143 that the "tunnel path" is so heavily shaded that the light in it is a twilight even with a bright afternoon sun shining. I would have needed a time exposure to photograph it during the afternoon, but there was too much wind for this.

Following these observations, I got out the tools. First I fixed down the mattox handle with the wood rasp to get the head to fit the handle. Did a good job of it, too, - I think.

Then I fastened the scythe to its snaths, and started in on the weeds in front of 'S Wayback and out into the Y area. It worked fairly well, except on the Juncus tenuis in the Y.

I finally decided that the blade would eventually need sharpening, and I might as well start using the scythe stone now. I had never used one before since I was a Brat, - at which time I didn't do the scythe much good - Dad said. He preferred to do the sharpening himself.

But I knew what was to be done, so I started in real slow-like until I got the hang of it, and surprised myself to learn how much it helped the cutting edge. It hadn't been really sharp when I started. After that I used the stone at regular intervals as needed and became reasonably proficient with it - in fact - more proficient with the stone than with the swinging of the scythe.

I went up + down the south trail, then the tunnel trail, followed by the north trail. Next was the trail on the west side of Ryldamere and the path back of 'D' Wayback, and around the service area. I still had time to start on the area along College next to the road. I started at the south end but had to stop by the time I got down to the south trail.

After supper, I returned to Paradox and finished cutting the area along the road. It was dusk when I finished. However, I borrowed the Messenger's rake to take the hay off of the road before I left for the day.

(See correction, next page) I (next) visited Paradox on Thursday

afternoon 22 June, 1950
(the longest day of the year) with a rake & lawn sweeper of my own, and started cleaning up the hay cut the previous Sunday. I only had time, however, for that area south of the south trail along College, before dark. I carried 4 or 5 armloads of hay from that area and started the compost pile near the northeast corner of the lot. There was also a small armload of brush collected from the area, taken to the woodpile in the service area.

About the only significant phenological observation made on this date was that the Catalpa speciosa tree had just finished blooming.

Correction

I forgot to mention that Ilys & I briefly visited Paradocs on Tuesday evening 20 June, 1950, at which time the Messenger's rake was returned. It was dusk, and we very much enjoyed walking around the area. No phenological observations.

End of correction

Then yesterday afternoon, after classes, ~~Friday~~ on 23 June, 1950, which was on Friday, I resumed the clean-up of hay along College. I got about 2/3rds of the way from the south trail to the north trail before supper. A bushel basket from Chanoce helped in the removal of the hay to the growing compost pile. After supper I completed the distance to the north trail. I guess there were 4 armloads of wood - all of

it small — carried from this area to the woodpile, in addition to the several loads of hay and debris. — (Also several tin cans and a whisky bottle! to the trash pile in the service area).

Again, no significant phenological observations were made, except for a plant of Luzula sp. noted near the compost pile. I had seen Luzula — the wood rush — before, but had never identified it nor made its acquaintance until yesterday, when Mr. Ernest Nelson (at the college) brought some to me for identification. It turned out to be more easily identified than I had anticipated. Having made its acquaintance, I was gratified to recognize it an hour or so later on Barbados.

Dor. S.

25 June, 1950 (Sunday evening)

I spent the afternoon at Barados, with the weather hot, dry, bright sunny (cloudless), and very windy. Still no rain, altho the vegetation is not yet showing any effects of dry weather yet. There is probably some moisture still left below the soil surface.

No records of plant phenology were kept, but I should have noted yesterday, and will note today, that a Brown-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia sp.) is in flower.

The following list of birds was obtained:— Mourning Dove
Robin
Catbird

h-Red-shouldered Hawk
h-Indigo Bunting
Orchard Oriole
Flicker
h-Maryland Yellowthroat
Brown Thrasher
House Wren
Blue Jay
Purple Martin
h-Carolina Wren
h-Cedar Waxwing
Cardinal.

The Fox squirrel was seen just before leaving, toward sunset, feeding on mulberrys in the upper limbs of the big mulberry tree.

Robins seemed a bit disturbed when I was in the vicinity of Shed No. 1, and one of them had food in its beak, so I assume there was a nest nearby, but I didn't see it. I didn't spend much time looking for it.

The first job of the afternoon was the completion of the weed removal from along College, from the north trail northward to the lot line.

Next I cleaned up the yard area in front of 8 Wayback, including a pile of honeysuckle vines and leaves I had cleared from the daffodil border on 25 February, 1950, and which had by now killed such grass as might have been present on that spot. The grass cover over this area is pretty thin at best, due to considerable trampling, track burning, honeysuckle coverage, etc.

After raking up the dead leaves and vines, and the weeds cut last Sunday (see page 144), I went over the area with the sickle (following the first real wheat job it had ever had) and got this "lawn" ready for the lawn-mower.

Then I repeated this all along the tunnel trail (on the east side of Ryldanere), carrying off several heaping buckets of leaves and debris from this area to the compost pile. This was followed by a similar treatment for two branches of the "Y" near the Service area. (The south branch, where "Eros, 700," was parked, was not disturbed).

The general plan is to keep the trails mowed, not only for appearance and ease of walking, but to serve as fire breaks, as well. The only other lawn areas will be in front of 'S Way-back and around the new house.

Oh, yes! Also the strip along College, for the same reasons. This will need some rocks removed and some smoothing before it can be mowed.

Sometime during the afternoon I also cut the weeds from around the Bush Cherry and Redbud in the southeast corner. There are a lot more weeds to be cut here. This time I made just a single sickle swath around the trees to keep them free from too much weed competition. The rest must come later.

Doc. S.

27 June, 1950 (Tuesday night)

Yesterday morning the roll of Kodachromes sent off a week or so ago were returned. Those pertaining to Barodocs will be recorded as soon as I can get around to it.

A thunderstorm (or a cold front passage) last night brought us a third of an inch of rain. This helped considerably, but didn't leave any water in Ryddamere.

This evening Dyp + I visited Barodocs for half an hour, more or less. A couple of bats were the only phenological observations worth recording.

A little later Don and Donna Cooper stopped at chance to visit us, so we took this pair of newlyweds (in their car) out to Barodocs to look it over — after dark. After they got the layout of the place, they seemed to be interested in its possibilities, and apparently enjoyed the visit.

Doc S.

28 June, 1950 (Wednesday night)

Dyp + I visited Barodocs about dusk this evening to take care of the wheelbarrow delivered there this afternoon. It had been ordered from Montgomery-Ward last Saturday afternoon. The wheelbarrow was on the porch of 'S Wayback, but not assembled, — most inconsiderate of them. I didn't take time for assembling them, but put it inside the building to be attended to later.

Last night's heavy frontal thunderstorm brought with it about 1½ inches of water. There were many pools standing every-

where this morning with the large one, + some of the smaller ones, still evident this afternoon. But there was no water visible in Ryldamere. Why? It must be going somewhere besides out the top, but where? I scarcely have an idea about how to go about finding out. The questions posed on 30 May (page 137) still stand. Due to relatively cool air behind the front and no particular wind, I am quite certain that the water loss now is not due only to evaporation, even tho it may have been in the spring months.

Doc. S.

2 July, 1950 (Sunday afternoon).

Several hours were spent yesterday afternoon and evening, on Saturday,

1 July, 1950

in mowing (for the first time) the area in front of S Wayback, those parts of the "Y" near the Service area which had been previously prepared for it, and the trail on the east side of Ryldamere. Then the south branch of the "Y" which not yet been cleared was raked and mowed. A large bouquet of Brown-eyed Susans were collected from this area and brought to Charnose.

The day was partly cloudy + windy, with mild temperatures. The soil was moist from a short heavy shower on the previous day (30 June), but there was no water in Ryldamere.

I forgot pencil + notebook, so no record of birds or plants was kept, but the usual

list of Robins, Cardinals, Blue Jays, Purple Martins, House Wrens and Catbirds was seen & heard. A squirrel was observed in the top of the big mulberry tree at suppertime, feeding on mulberries.

Polygala sp. was noted to be in flower near the brush pile near the north side of the area.

This morning (2 July, 1950) Dyo & I went out to Paradocs "early" (about 7:30) before breakfast to enjoy the results of yesterday's labors and to talk about further development -- but mostly just enjoyment.

After breakfast I returned to continue the clean-up. I worked westward along the south trail to the top of the little hill, and also at the northeast "corner" of Ryeldamere. These areas are now ready for mowing. I also put the wheelbarrow together -- a job taking an hour, more or less. (See 28 June, bottom of page 150).

Mr. Kumm came out about noon to pick some berries from the hill property. He said he had removed everything he wanted, so I turned his lock & key to 'S Wayback over to him, and put on a new one of our own.

I have already entered the Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the back cover for this date, but am now out of journal space to complete today's account. A new and larger Journal will contain the remainder of today's account, plus many, many others.

# Birds of Paradoes mentioned in this volume of the Journal.

31 Dec. 1949 - Slate-colored Junco
Eastern Cardinal
Eastern Redwing
English Sparrow
Northern Flicker
~~Black-capped~~ carolina Chickadee (?) (See page 100.)
h - Barred Owl
h - Eastern Crow (25 Feb.)

("h" indicates song record only. (="heard").)

6 Jan. 1950 — Eastern Robin
8 Jan. 1950 Tufted Titmouse
28 Jan. 1950 Starling
h - Red-shouldered Hawk (4 Mar.)
4 Feb. 1950 - Carolina Wren
Downy Woodpecker
9 Feb. Eastern Mourning Dove.
11 Feb. N. Blue Jay
19 Feb. h - Screech Owl. (6 Dec., 1952)
25 Feb. Eastern Crow
Cooper Hawk
4 March, 1950 - Red-shouldered Hawk
Field Sparrow
Mississippi Song Sparrow
h - Sparrow Hawk (23 April)
h - Eastern Meadowlark (16 April).
h - Killdeer (5 Mar.)
5 March ~~h~~ - Eastern Bluebird (seen in P.M.)
Killdeer
11 March Eastern Hairy Woodpecker.
17 March Bronzed Grackle
22 March Purple Martin
24 March Eastern Phoebe
25 March Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Bewick Wren
10 April, 1950 - Chimney Swift
11 April Brown Thrasher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
House Wren
16 April ~~Plumbeous Chickadee~~ (See above)
Eastern Cowbird (33 to here, + $\frac{2}{3}$ heard)

16 April, 1950 - Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Kingbird
Brown Creeper
19 April — Myrtle Warbler
21 April — White-throated Sparrow.
22 April — Mallard
h - Eastern Goldfinch (2 May)
23 April — Sparrow Hawk
~~Arkansas~~ Western Kingbird
Solitary Sandpiper
28 April — Green Heron
2 May, 1950 - Olive-backed Thrush
Baltimore Oriole
Eastern Goldfinch
Wood Thrush
Red-eyed Towhee
h - Warbling Vireo
Orchard Oriole
Bell Vireo
Maryland Yellowthroat
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
American Bittern
h - Chipping Sparrow
Red-headed Woodpecker
Catbird
White-crowned Sparrow
4 May - - - - - Louisiana Waterthrush
Tennessee Warbler
Indigo Bunting
Least Flycatcher
Lesser Yellowlegs
5 May - - - Black and White Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Wilson Warbler
6 May — h - Bobwhite (10 May)
7 May — ~~Field Sparrow~~ see 4 March!
Alder Flycatcher
10 May — Bobwhite
13 May — Mockingbird
14 May, 1950 - Eastern Nighthawk (68 to here, + 4 heard

16 May, 1950 – Rosé-breasted Grosbeak.
30 May, 1950 – Cedar Waxwing
2 July, 1950 – Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Total this journal, 71, + 4 heard.

Several minor corrections to this list were found on 29 December, 1955.