

# Trail Log 1970-1979

## Holmes Rolston, III

### Summary

1970. Local trails and trips. Backpacking  
August 10, 1970. Climb of Long's Peak. Rocky Mountain National Park
1971. Local trails and trips. Backpacking.  
Sept. 6, 1971. Climb of Long's Peak, Rocky Mountain National Park
1972. Local trails and trips. Backpacking. Plants collected.
1973. Local trails and trips.  
Backpacking, Appalachian Trail, Shenandoah National Park, Virginia
1974. Local trails and trips.  
July 1974-July 1975 Sabbatical Year, Harvard University.  
Residence in Marblehead, Massachusetts
1975. Trails and trips, fall 1975
- 1976 .Trails and trips  
Dinosaur National Monument  
Big Thompson Flood, July 31-August 1, 1976
- 1977 Trails and trips  
Includes Shenandoah National Park, Virginia  
Backpacking, Rawah Mountains, Colorado  
Mt. Elbert, Mt. Massive  
Yellowstone National Park
- 1978 Trails and trips  
Backpacking. Green Ridge Trail, Poudre Canyon, Chambers Lake area
1979. Trails and trips  
Plants collected  
West Virginia  
Grand Canyon, Arches, Mesa Verde National Parks  
Deadman, Sand Creek Pass, Colorado  
Rollins Pass. Devil's Thumb, Colorado

1970

Jan. 15, 1970. Heard coyotes fussing outside home at night. Waked us in the early a.m.

Jan. 18, 1970. Snowshoed in RMNP. First time on my new snowshoes. Snowshoed to Alberta Falls, one mile round trip. About 2-3 ft. of snow in here. The trail is easy to loose. Snow flurries with some blue sky (clear day on the plains). Strong wind. Also used down mittens for first time here. Later, snowshoed about one mile around the Glacier Basin Picnic Area, walking in from road. Lodgepole pine has notable persistent cones, seen in this area. 3 deer, one buck, near exit from park.

Jan. 25, 1970. Sunday p.m. Went to look at the Pinyons in Rex Quarry above Owl Canyon. Very windy, day. In a gap at the quarry it was difficult to stand in the wind. Also some xtaline calcite. The quarry is in the Ingleside formation (Pennsylvanian-Permian).

Late Jan.-early Feb. A few robins noted in town.

Feb. 7, 70. Hiked and snowshoed to The Pool, on Fern Lake Trail, RMNP. Lovely day. Road in from Moraine Park was open to above the Cub Lake Trailhead, but not all the way to the Fern Lake Trailhead. Hiked about 1/2 mile on this road, and then on the trail to the Pool. Used snowshoes last mile. Went above the Pool for perhaps a half mile, but found the Fern Lake trail obscured by snow.

I wanted to return via the Cub Lake Trail, but found that also too difficult to make out, especially as I was alone. Another company had done up Big Thompson a ways. They say there is a trail there, in places good.

Lots of Springtails, 'snowfleas' (Collembola) in the snow. They jump like fleas. Chickadees, Stellar's jays, ravens. Also Townsend's solitaire: slate colored, thrush sized, eye ring, and wing marks. First I had seen this, but it was identified by description by a ranger enroute; says this is a good area for them.

Heard enroute of a company that had come round from Bear Lake and stayed overnight in the Ranger Station at Fern Lake. Said the trail was very hard to follow; could not have done it if they had not known the trail. Another company skied up Trail Ridge and down to Grand Lake in one day, but said winds on Trail Ridge were very high.

Feb. 20, 1970.. Male redwing blackbird at Williams Lake (Woodward Plant).

March 5. 2 crocuses in bloom; also 4" of snow.

March 7, 70. Drive to Red Feather Lakes, and return via Rustic. Perhaps a hundred mtn. bluebirds seen enroute, but this is about the only sign of spring. Grass is greener in places. Watched a raven at close range through the Zoom Scope. One cottontail below Log Cabin. There is a village at Red Feather Lakes; a few dozen people live there year round. Post Office and phone booth.

The road from Rustic over the top' stays closed much of the winter (i.e. below; Prohibition Mtn). The road via the Scout Ranch is usually open. Roads west of Red Feather are closed much of the winter, esp. Sand Creek Pass.

March 21, 70. Snowshoed to Nymph and Dream Lake with Jennings Bunch. Various 2-6" of snow on the ground, few or no bare spots. Trail is fairly easy to locate, though takes some care. High peaks were clear earlier in day, but in and out of cloud while we were there. Windy and cold at Dream, but otherwise pleasant. Round trip, with other excursions, about 2 miles. 12 deer, no antlers.

March 24, 70. Storm Mtn. Left home about 6.00 a.m. Golden eagle vicinity of Masonville, this side, where feeder canal crosses highway. The eagle was first perched rather near the road, when I spotted it. It flew to a farther perch, then later to another somewhat closer. About half filled the field of scope at 60x. Overcast or shady yet here and scope did well.

Eagle had white tail with black end band (immature). White in base of primaries was less obvious. Color overall is dark, a black-brown, but washed in gold, esp. the neck. Legs feathered. Gold on head is very clear, though would not show in less advantageous viewing. Watched about 40 minutes.

Climbed Cedar Park road o.k., but this about all the sedan will do. It was frozen; trouble on return. Parked car above Cedar Park opposite a granite cliff. Flushed retail hawk, light phase here. Hiked via Hyatt mine, to Galuchie Park (=Meadows). Sign here. 4 wheel drives had been this far, though someone behind me tried it and did not make it this far. Additional roads here make it somewhat confusing. 4 deer vicinity of the mine.

Beyond Galuchie Park road rises abruptly, 4 wheels were all stopped here. Snowshoed beyond, but ran out of time, and did not make summit. Also trails a bit uncertain. Collected black mineral at mine on return.

Road was mostly snow covered, but thawing, and hiking was sloppy.

Car got stuck coming down Cedar Park road. Jacked out o.k. One cable hook unit slipped, until tightened. Put three clamps on each? Tie steering wheel to facilitate pulling. First put the cable 5 ft. up on 8" cedar, but bent the cedar. If it was necessary to lift the car considerably, it would be better to do some jacking, prop with logs, etc., to reduce the lift load and get center of gravity working for you. Took an hour to get out.

Clear most of the day, but snowstorm moved in rapidly, beginning to cloud about 2.00. Spitting snow by 3.00, and generally light snow by 3.30. By the time I got home (6.00) it had been snowing in Ft. Collins, since 3.30. A fast moving cold front from Montana.

Later: Returned to Storm Mountain, June 5, 1971, June 12-14, 1978; May 5, 1990; Dec. 18,

1994.

Mar. 23, 70. Cobb Lake area, early a.m. Mallards, pintails, canvasbacks, many redheads, Canada goose, coots, Am. mergansers, lesser scaup, buffleheads, widgeon. Saw female marsh hawk drop into a rabbit, but did not catch it, rabbit bounced into brush. Redtail hawk.

Bald eagles may congregate on lakes where there is a large winter kill of fish. They are seen in this area from time to time. One stayed for a long time at Riverside Reservoir, east of Greeley (Baldwin).

19" of snow March 30 & following.

April 12, 70. Redheads; mallards, C. goose, horned grebe, coot, widgeon, and ringnecked ducks on pond at Woodward governor plant. First time for ringnecked ducks.

April 25, 70. Snowshoed to Flattop Man. Left Bear Lake about 8.00 a.m. Massive amounts of snow in the lake basin. Ranger hut is completely covered; a path has been dug through leaving walls 12 ft. high. First time using new bindings on snowshoes.

Could not find path from Bear Lake and we (Don Crosby and student, Todd Fenner) cut upwards through woods, somewhat confused, but eventually came out on ridge top, then worked up moraine ridge, following approximate route of path.

Lunched just above timberline on rocky area, and just above that found the path. Snow was blown clear in areas, and we left snowshoes and went on without them. Weather was clear but windy, cold, esp. when not moving. Ground blizzard over the snowfields. I went to top; others did not. Reached summit at 1.00 p.m. (5 hours)

Return by same route, but picking up trail from last ridge downward (though even here it was difficult to follow, and we lost it again nearing the lake). About 9 miles round trip, about half of this on snowshoes and little or none of it on any trail. Returned by 4.00 (3 hours). Hard hike.

About a dozen elk seen roadside on return; also about ten deer. The elk have antlers about the size of mature deer antlers at this stage. Few signs of spring in the park, though lower down the aspen catkins are down.

Ft. Collins area - grass has been green for some time, but leaves are just appearing.

May 2, 70. Drive to Sedgwick to Presbytery. Two antelope roadside between Ault and Sterling. A number of pheasants and unident. hawks.

June 6, 1970. Bobcat at Ft. Collins waterworks. Magnificent view. I was birding, standing quietly in a little draw when he came rapidly down hill towards me, chasing something - a rabbit, perhaps a ground squirrel. Intent on his chase he did not see me. His quarry eluded him, and he paused, looked around a bit, and then went behind a rock for a minute or so. He emerged to look over the road below and the North Fork of the Poudre, decided not to cross. I watched him wag his tail. He turned coming in my direction, then when about 30 feet from me he saw me, froze a few moments, snarled and spit at me a bit, and then skampered off. Views clear and close. Had rings on tail, upper part, and black stripes on ears. Seemed about size of cocker spaniel. Watched at first through binoculars, but the latter part of this episode he was much too close to use binoculars.

Later: Another one, Dec 28, 1991.

Later, went on up to Swamp Creek, below Prohibition Mountain. Increasingly less out with gain in altitude. Swamp Creek is in early spring condition - Pasqueflower, buttercups, dandelions, shrubs leafing out some, alder, aspen, but most of the flora has yet to come.

c. June 15, 70. Trip to Laramie and Cheyenne via Virginia Dale. About 20 antelope at various points along the way. With Mother and Daddy.

c. June 18, 70. Trip to Mt. Evans with Mother and Daddy. Road closed past Summit Lake, 12,830 ft.

July 2-4, 70. Backpack trip to Lawn Lake and Mummy Mtn. Coyote above Beaver Meadows where road runs along Deer Mtn. Saw him about 2.00 p.m, 50 yards from road. He did not frighten easily, and later loped off with a limp, so he may have been injured by a passing car. Decidedly rusty about the ears and face, otherwise gray. Ran with tail down. Thin muzzle.

Later: Coyote seen again July 21 near entrance at Beaver Meadows.

Left from Horseshoe Park about 2.15. Reached Lawn Lake about 5.30, steady hike, 3 hrs. 15 min. for 6 1/4 (or 7) miles. Most accounts are that the signs are short, and that the trail is nearer 7 miles, than the posted 6. Trail is well graded, broad, never very steep. Pack weight 28 lbs, and reached Lawn Lake without too much sweat. Though I had gotten the last of 6 permits, there was only one other party at the lake the first night; many more the second night.

Camped without incident that night. Hiked to Mummy next day, also Rowe Glacier. Lawn is only half the elevation from Horseshoe Park to Mummy:

Mummy 13,425	2438 ft difference
Lawn 10,987	2467 ft. difference
Horseshoe 8520	4905 ft. total climb

Three bighorn ewes on the climb up toward the Hagues-Mummy saddle, surprisingly close and they frightened less than I had expected. Lunched at summit about 1.00. Returned to Saddle and then hiked round to see Rowe Glacier. On descent back to Lawn, however, feet began to get sore.

Crystal Lake is still half frozen. Many snowfields dot the landscape above timberline and down into timberline a couple hundred feet. Camped again at Lawn Lake. Snowshoe rabbit.

Return hike on Saturday, rather slowly, as feet were sore, but I had only a couple small blisters. Pulled ligament in right knee is giving me sore trouble. Left heel is doing fine, and hip seems to have cleared up. Pack weight did not really bother me, nor was there the effect of elevation that I had feared. Hands flared up on this trip. Round trip about 22 miles, with side trips.

Collected Calypso bulbosa, Fairy Slipper, and Bog Laurel, Kalmia polifolia.

July 8-10, 70. Backpack trip to Ouzel Lake and Bluebird Lake. Left Wild Basin about 11.00 a.m. Lunched at Calypso Cascades. Reached Ouzel Lake about 3.30. First night there alone.

A marten was active in camp, that evening and early the next morning. He was much about the ground, checking for fisherman's litter, but also climbed a tree to which my tent rope was tied. About the site of a small dog. Came within a few feet of me. Song sparrow also vocal at camp.

Hiked to Bluebird the next day. Steady climb for about 2 miles. Camping area is 1/2 mile below lake, as lake is above timberline. A relic of a dam here, also some remarkably heavy machinery to have lugged to this elevation. Rain drizzle in the afternoon. Two boys fishing were at Ouzel that night. An ouzel was about the exit stream below camp. Also Audubon's warbler. Mosquitoes nominal. Nights cool to chilly, tried one layer of sleeping bag and got cold. Round trip, all in, about 15 miles. Snow Mushroom, Gyromitra gigas.

Collected:

Buckbean	<u>Menyanthes trifoliata</u>	rare
Adoxa	<u>Adoxa moschatellina</u>	
Sibbaldia	<u>Sibbaldia procumbens</u>	
Parry's Primrose	<u>Primula parryi</u>	
Sweet Cicely	<u>Osmorhiza obtusa</u> (= <u>depauperata</u> )	
Sulphur flower	<u>Eriogonum umbellatum</u>	
Valerian	<u>Valeriana capitata</u>	
Alpine Sorrel	<u>Oxyria digyna</u>	
Wild Onion	<u>Alium geeyeri</u>	
Lesser Wintergreen	<u>Pyrola minor</u>	
Bittercress	<u>Cardamine cordifolia</u>	
Brook Saxifrage	<u>Saxifraga arguta</u>	
False Solomon's Seal	<u>Smilacina racemosa</u>	
Colorado Columbine	<u>Aquilegia caerulea</u>	
Northern Coral root	<u>Corallorhiza trifida</u>	
White Bog Orchid	<u>Habenaria dilatata</u>	
Twinflower	<u>Linnaea borealis</u>	
Interrupted Clubmoss	<u>Lycopodium annotinum</u>	
Alpine Sandwort	<u>Arenaria obtusiloba</u>	
Least Bitterroot	<u>Lewisia pygmaea</u>	
Whipple's Penstemon	<u>Penstemon whippleanus</u>	
Western Dock	<u>Rumex occidentalis</u>	
Heartleaf Twayblade	<u>Listera cordata</u>	
Elephantella	<u>Pedicularis groenlandica</u>	
Yellow Pond Lily	<u>Nuphar luteum</u> ( <u>polysepalum</u> )	
Alpine Lady Fern	<u>Athyrium alpestre</u>	
American Rock Brake	<u>Cryptogramma crispa</u> (cf. <u>achrostichoides</u> )	

July 13-17, 70. 5 day trip into North Inlet Country, Bear Lake to Grand Lake. Climbed Flattop, Monday a.m., pack weight about 31 lbs. Windy and cool. North Inlet Trail is good double blazed trail, tall 5' cairns in pairs. Looked over Andrew Glacier; there is a sign marking it and descent does not look difficult. Return and descent to Hallet Creek and Patrol Cabin. Arrived about 4.00 p.m. Evening spent with an architect from Minnesota, alone.

About 8 deer, all bucks but one, grazed freely to within feet of our fire in front of the cabin. Continued into the night, and were not disturbed by flashlight. Also a marten prowling about, and, in the dark by flashlight, a porcupine. Marten (?) persistently gnawed at the cabin window

and door all night.

Something carried off my pot scrubber, and left me handicapped in dishwashing for the week. Many marmots, conies, and white crowned sparrows.

Descent on Tuesday to Trail Junction, and lunched at bridge and falls on the Lake Nokoni Trail. Missed Lake Solitude Trail here and made through the brush leaving the trail in the vicinity of the first switchback. Night and following day at Lake Solitude (see other notes). Beaver in the Lake the second night. Considerable mosquitoes. Little sign of others having been here recently.

Broken trail found on way out, running on north side of North Inlet, much down timber on it. Trail crew met, at their tent camp, just over hump from the falls, where I previously lunched. Climb to Lake Nokoni, in time for lunch there; cooked beef stew. Man from Denver (made airline maps) and two sons, and neighbor's boy were there, fishing. Ate supper with them, eating roasted fish. Fish are cleaned, and the rib cage stuffed with some bacon. Wrapped in foil and roasted about 10 min, or less, on each side. Delicious.

Hiked to Lake Nanita that afternoon. Both lakes are lovely. Hiked out the following day, Friday. Left Nokoni about 8.30, reached Grand Lake about 1.30, 5 hours for 11 miles. Some rain on way out; mosquitoes bothersome after rain. A fire seems to keep them away considerably.

Total trip 25 miles. The hike from Bear Lake to Grand Lake could be done satisfactorily with an overnight at Hallet Creek, or by a seasoned hiker (esp to Summerland Park) in a day. Would be o.k. on horseback in one day.

At or near Lake Solitude:

Alpine Speedwell	<u>Veronica wormskjoldii</u>
Monkshood	<u>Aconitum columbianum</u>
Meadow Rue	<u>Thalictrum</u> spp?
Potentilla	<u>Potentilla gracilis</u>
Swamp White Violet	<u>Viola pallens</u> (?)
Mountain Blue Violet	<u>Viola adunca</u>
Parrot's Beak	<u>Pedicularis racemosa</u>
Subalpine Daisy	<u>Erigeron peregrinus</u>

(previously collected and present at Lake Solitude)

Twisted Stalk	<u>Streptopus amplexifolius</u>
Death Camas	<u>Zygadenus elegans</u>
Ceanothus	<u>Ceanothus velutinus</u> (North Inlet Trail)
Twayblade	<u>Listera cordata</u>
Elephantella	
<u>Kalmia</u>	
<u>Sphagnum</u> (moss)	
<u>Sedum</u>	
<u>Caltha</u>	
<u>Arnica</u>	
<u>Rumex</u> - Western Dock	<u>Rumex occidentalis</u>
<u>Polemonium</u>	
paintbrushes	
Columbine	

North Inlet and Lake Nokoni Trails:

Alpine Bishop's Cap	<u>Mitella pentandra</u>
Pine Drops	<u>Pterospora andromeda</u>
Snow Willow	<u>Salix nivalis</u>
Buffalo-berry	<u>Shepherdia canadensis</u>
Wintergreen	<u>Pyrola virens</u>
Woodnymph, One Flowered	Pyrola <u>Moneses uniflora</u>
Slender Bog Orchid	<u>Habenaria saccata</u>
Northern Small Bog Orchid	<u>Habenaria obtusata</u>
Pedicularis	<u>Pedicularis bracteosa</u>
Western Yellow Paintbrush	<u>Castilleja occidentalis</u>
Northern Willow-herb	<u>Epilobium adenocaulon</u>
Spotted Saxifrage	<u>Saxifraga bronchialis</u>
Purple Lady Slipper	<u>Cypripedium fasciculatum</u>

July 22-23, 70. Backpacking Trip to Timber Lake and Mt. Ida. Parked car at picnic area (Phantom Valley), and hiked to Timber Lake. A steady climb, but not a bad hike. Lunched at the Lake in some rain. Climbed Mt. Ida that afternoon; some graupel storm, but when I reached the summit it was clear and lovely. Spectacular view, including the Gorge Lakes, esp. Highest Lake, Azure Lake and Inkwel Lakes. Highest Lake is especially notable, partially covered with ice and snow, and a notable blue, Small cross on top of Ida.

Route to Cracktop and Julian looks formidable, but Outdoorsman's Guide says it is passable.

Return to Timber Lake, and spaghetti supper in intermittent rain, but cooked under some spruce trees and was not bothered by it.

During dishwashing an elk appeared, bull, grazing first up from me, and then around me, coming unusually close--the closest I have ever been to an elk. Later worked his way on down below the lake. Had about 5-6 points on each antler.

Two birds were especially noisy, one presumably a Swainson's Thrush, but only gave a towhee-like call note, never the song. The other a pine siskin, yellow in wings, a wheezy song. Kinglet seen at close range on way up, including the red crest.

Rain off and on all night, but never heavy, and did not get through. Stopped conveniently for breakfast, and fire started with little trouble. Sun came out as I left. Out about 1.30 p.m. Total to Ida and back, about 12 miles. Trailhead to Timber Lake 4.2 miles.

Mt. Ida.	12,880	
		1840
Timber L.	11,040	
		2040
Trailhead	9,000	
		3840 ft.

In very good shape after this climb.

July 27-29, 70. Rawah Lakes. Got a boy to shuttle me back to Tunnel Campground from Rawah Guest Ranch, and park car at Parking lot for Trailhead there.

Hiked North Fork (Laramie River) trail in. Steady Climb; but nice grade. Over Grassy Pass and down to Lake No. 3. Camped here two nights. Plenty of firewood, though the lake is right at



or even a little above timberline. Mosquitoes not too bad. 9 deer on a ridge side of Sheep Mtn. first evening.

Hiked up North Rawah Peak and to Lake No. 4. No trail up the peak, but a rock scramble. Tried to make way down to South Rawah Peak along the back side of the cliffs above Lake No. 4 but rain and large boulders turned me back. Graupel storm when back in camp, but cleared off to a cloudless sky for supper. Two deer around Lake No. 2 next morning, and jumped 2 more on hike out via Rawah Creek Trail. 2 garter snakes, one on trail about 9000 ft., the other very near the Rawah Guest Ranch on way out, about 8300 ft. Trails are well marked. Round Trip c. 25 miles.

North Rawah c.12,500  
1600 ft.  
Lake No. 3 c.10,900  
2400  
Tunnel Campg- 8,500  
4000 ft. climb.

August 8, 70. The Loch, and Lake Haiyaha, with Dick Baker. Left Glacier Gorge Junction about 3.00 p.m., hiked to the Loch in Loch Vale, returned to junction of trail between Glacier Knobs where Mills Lake trail leaves, and took a trail which cuts over, to Lake Haiyaha (not shown on topo map, but marked with signs). Ate supper at Lake Haiyaha, and returned to Bear Lake via Dream Lake and Nymph Lake. About 6 miles.

August 10, 70. Longs Peak. With Dick Baker. Left home 4.00 a.m. (rising at 3.00!!). Left Long's Peak Campground at 5.30 a.m., with a few stars still visible. Only a couple of climbers had signed the register ahead of us, but half a dozen were leaving about the time we did. Uneventful climb to Boulderfield; past Mills Moraine. Reached Boulderfield about 9.30. There is water at various points to here, and water here, apparently all summer. There are here the remnants of a shelter cabin (itself the remnants of a former guide lodge), and an emergency telephone, plus a hitching rack.

No graded trails leave from here, and this is somewhat confusing, nor is there a sign indicating trail junction. Steady rock scramble picking your way to Chasm View, reached there about 10.15, and waited there 45 minutes on Dick. About six climbers were on the East Face, strung out before us in spectacular view. Began cable route about 11.00, and reached summit sometime after noon. There are two cables, the first is the longest and hardest. Footholds were wet, and in a few cases had a skiff of ice, on the first cable. The second cable was less steep, and dry.

Above the cables, there is a steady scramble upwards. Route is not marked, but I found it without trouble. Used buckskin gloves here, and afterward to good advantage.

Clear and relatively calm on top. Area is about the size of a football field. Clouds out on the plains were lower than the summit, a very few clouds seemed as though they might envelop the summit, but not a suggestion of rain.

View of the whole countryside, from Evans on the south, to the Medicine Bows in Wyoming. There were perhaps thirty persons on the summit while I was there, one a Camp Cheeley group of boys. Ate lunch here. Dick made it up around 1.00 or afterward. Left about 2.00, down keyhole route. This route is marked from summit all the way to the Keyhole with fried egg, or bullseye paint marks. First stretch is a steep descent known as Homestretch. Take care to follow bullseyes for best route. I was a bit skittish on early part of this descent, as did not follow

them closely enough; also some of these ledges can be backed down.

Route then follows a more or less level route across a ledge known as Narrows, but I did not mind this part.

There is a long and somewhat tedious descent of the Trough, but this is not as steep as the Homestretch, and at length the route turns to go across the Ledges or Shelves, gaining some altitude, then descending to the Keyhole. I was somewhat confused at the sign indicating the Keyhole downwards, and took some minutes avoiding the False Keyhole, which seems to be where you ought to be going here. But following the bullseyes will take you to the correct Keyhole. Reached here about 4.00, and waited a good while on Dick, who was tiring out by now. Reached Boulderfield about 5.30, and long trek out reaching Long's Peak Campground via Jim's Grove about 8.00, just at dark.

Passed a ranger in Boulderfield, who seemed to be checking on folks, and who planned to come out by flashlight (and half moon) about 10.00.

Saw at very close range (a few feet) about 6 ptarmigans on switchbacks low in Boulderfield. Marmot, pikas, ravens, one hawk.

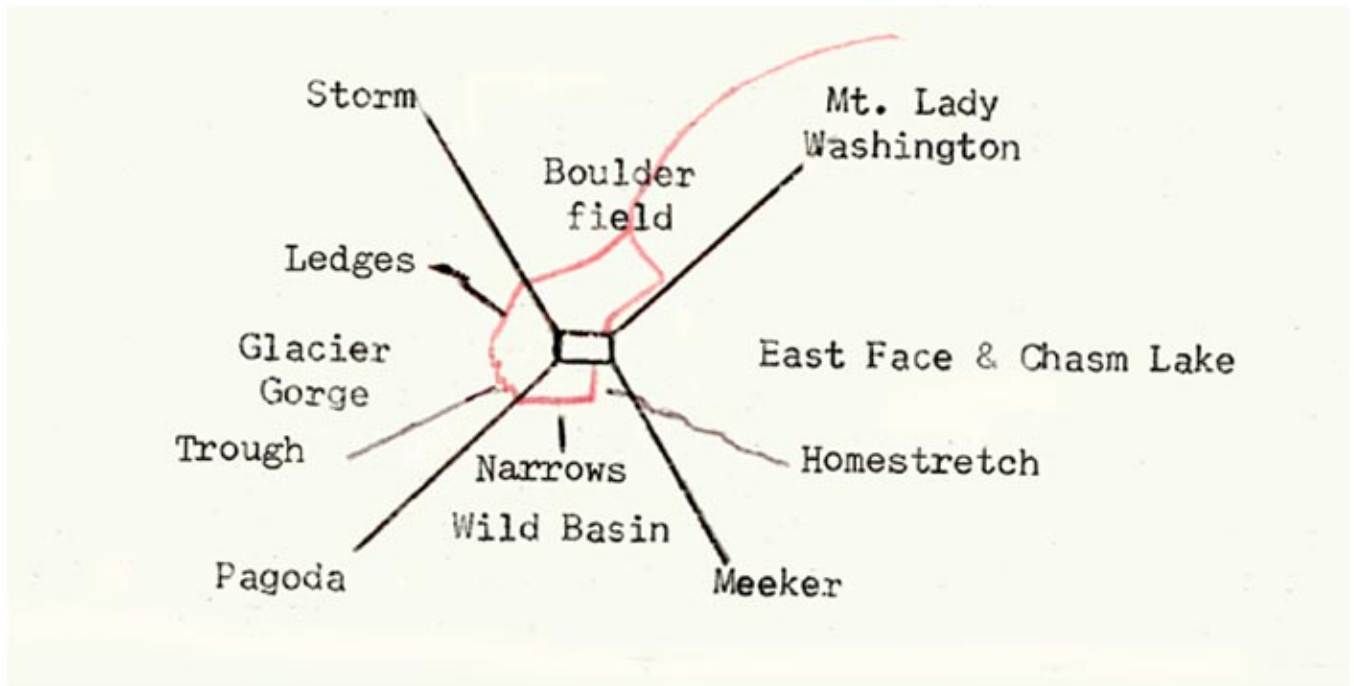
You should leave Boulderfield with a quart of water. Water is available (better location than at Boulderfield some hundred yards above it in the direction of the Keyhole. No water in between. Gloves also came in handy. I sunburned wearing my convertible shorts, should have put the legs on at midday.

I survived without headache and without a blister, though feet were sore at day's end (recovered well following day), and I was sore in upper leg muscles a couple days - from the high lifting of legs which you have to do on this hike. Though I had been hiking all month (100 miles, backpacking) in this respect I was not well enough conditioned. Conditioning might also include some arm workouts, and grip exercises.

Peak should be avoided if there is any sign of rain.

Long's divided readily into four ridges, separating the four faces. Each ridge leads to an accompanying mountain.

A Houston doctor was injured (broken neck) in a fall in Chasm Lake area, the following day, Aug. 11.











On another climb, you might consider tennis shoes carried for the rock scrambles. Cap is definitely preferable to broad brim hat. Careful reading of the literature will be advantageous.

I seem to be having the best success sipping water all day -- thirsty or not. I am not dried out so much at the end of the day.

August 15, 70. Nymph, Dream, and Emerald Lakes, with Jennings Lunch, Jane and Shonny. Nice short hike, about 3 miles.

Sept. 4, 70. Mt. Audubon, solo. Drove to Ward via Lyons. Car boiled at Red Rock Lake, but filled it and got to Brainard Lake o.k. No problem on return trip. Good blacktop road to Brainard Lake. This lake is 10,300 ft. (Bear Lake is 9400, almost a thousand feet lower). If accessible in winter, should make good snowshowing base. Just beyond the creek into the lake from Blue Lake, the road leads to two trailheads, well developed (not shown on topo): Long Lake Trailhead, and Mitchell Lake Trailhead. Sign at end of parking lot gives instructions. The Audubon trail can be reached by following sign there, but is as well reached by going to upper end of the lot and starting there; here trail is wider; this trail is reached by the one from the sign shortly up the trail.

Easy trail to switchbacks as indicated on topo, then steady ascent, but no problems. Probably can be found with some difficulty in winter. Above the forks (other trail leading on over to Beaver Creek area), trail is above timberline and marked with cairns, fairly close; no problem in summer, probably o.k. in winter.

Climbs to saddle between Audubon and the N. E. Point of Audubon (12,706 on topo), then more abrupt climb to summit, 13,223 ft. Paiute would make a good hike from here and fill out the day. There was ice freshly formed in the streamlets. Under clouds, cold on top. The down jacket and gloves seem always in order! Water is scarce here at this time of year, but probably more plentiful earlier. Found some at a couple of points, however. A permanent snowfield on Audubon is visible from the plains. Lone Eagle Peak visible from summit. Passed two men and boy, with pack horse, on quality deer hunt on return.

Some rain on return. One way 3 1/4 miles, round trip 7. Climb 3000 ft.

Sept. 10, 70. Picnic in Endo Valley Campground with Jane and Shonny. First snowfall of season was last weekend, Labor Day, Sept. 5-7, and it is quite noticeable on the higher mountains. Longs Peak is apparently still open. Only a few hints of aspen turning at higher elevations.

late Sept. 70. Hike part way up Bierstadt Trail with Jane and Shonny. Aspen were gorgeous. (took movies). Picnic at Bear Lake Parking Lot, with deer nearby. Tried to hear elk bugle, but no luck. Two raccoons at night on road near park boundary on return.

Nov. 25, 70. Snowshoed to Loch Vale with Don Crosby and Mike McCullough. Left at 8.15 a.m., arrived about 12.00. Plenty of snow, trail bare only coming over ridge up into lip of flat area where trail divides between Glacier Knobs. Relatively mild day, but some wind, and spitting (or blowing?) snow at the Loch. Beaver had been cutting noticeably and very recently at one point, chips lay atop the snow. Many rabbit tracks. Several squirrels seen. Bindings hurt tops of my feet and toes on return trip. 5 miles return. Returned about 2.30. Would have tried Sky Pond, but didn't think we had time.

end 1970.

1971

January 6, 1971. 19° below zero on the front porch, 20° below reported in area. 12" of snow on the ground from a snowstorm several days earlier. Coldest I have ever seen it.

State record low is -60°. Denver's record low is -30°. Last night the state low was -51° at a reservoir in the vicinity of Great Sand Dunes and Alamosa.

Jan. 30, 1971. Snowshoed solo to Alberta Falls. Good snow pack, but nothing spectacular, perhaps not enough to showshoe in Glacier Creek area. Lunched at Alberta Falls, then return. Snowshoed in vicinity of Bear Lake, and up to first switchback (with sign to Bierstadt Lake) on Flattop Trail. Found my way in here o.k. Days's total, 2-3 miles. Used hiking shoes with snowshoes, and found them much more comfortable. No deer, few birds. Windy but sunny.

Feb. 13, 1971. Snowshoed briefly with Shonny and Jane, in Glacier Creek area. Crocus sprouts up.

Feb. 19, 71. Some crocus in bloom, also snowing.

Late February. Robins in town. Crocus flourishing.

Feb. 27, 71. Two adult bald eagles over Horsetooth Reservoir. I climbed Arthur's Rock. Parked car at end of Colorado Game and Fish Dept road in. Then keep left, south of draw, and follow trail. Eventually picked my way around back (west) of top, and worked on up to top. Saw the eagles as I was turning to go. White heads and tails, high in the sky. Readily identifiable, but no binoculars! Returned Sunday a.m., but no luck seeing them again.

March 12, Friday. First ski lesson at Hidden Valley.

March 17, Wednesday. Set out two Blue Spruce in the front yard. Several red-wing blackbirds in the cattail swamps around the area.

March 19. Second ski lesson. Went up to Hidden Valley all day. Rode the Poma lift for the first time. Lovely weather through here, but many windy days. Lengthening days noticeable, but no signs of spring in the vegetation. Maple in flower in town.

March 26, 71. Skied Hidden Valley. Warm day and snow mushy. Alder catkins down in Big Thompson Canyon, but not in park. Aspen coming out some in Big Thompson Canyon. Bluebirds in park. 6-8 deer. 84° in Denver. Buds on some shrubs expanding in town. Forsythia at Library have some blooms out.



April 1-15. Jonquils have come out, pretty well in full flower by middle of month. Some tulips.

April 18, 1971. On Bingham Hill: Whiskbroom Parsley, but very low, though in good flower. A few Yellow Prairie Violets. Draba reptans (for the first time), this with well formed fruit. One sand lily. Three-leaved sumac buds expanding.

Blue Mustard is in full flower and has been ten days. Boxelder in flower; elm fruiting. Few apple trees in bloom (most are not). Thermopsis in bloom, though low down.

At Ft. Collins waterworks: Hundreds of Pasque Flowers, well in bloom. Try this hillside in a good year by April 1, or even late March. Considerable Spring Beauty. Some Mertensia lanceolata well out. One or two plums about half in flower: Total of 12 wildflowers found. (species)

Apr. 18-24. Rainy week, some snow flurries, and mountain snows, visible on Horsetooth.

Apr. 23. Fox in field across Drake from Lexington Green. Jane saw him first; with Shonny in car. He was some distance out in field. When the car stopped, he crouched; then when I got out of car he ran south across field, tail out. Bushy tail. But this fox was reddish, presumably red fox, though the literature places them above 8,000 ft.

Apr. 24. Cobb Lake & vicinity. Cottontail. Great Blue Heron. Mallard. Coot. Bufflehead. Shoveler, Eared Grebe, Blue winged teal, Green winged teal, Pintail, Black Crowned Night Heron (6-8 of these, first time seen), 3 marsh hawks, lesser Scaup. Many redwings and yellow headed blackbirds. Avocets. C. Goose. Pheasant, one female at close range. Barn Swallow. Redhead Duck. Muskrat. Killdeer. Gulls. 8-10 Burrowing owls, but no prairie dogs. Grass is rather green, but wildflowers almost nil.

May 29, 71. Old Lewstone Greek Lumber Road, from Bellvue area. Halfway between Rist Canyon and Poudre Canyon. Trail starts on Graves Dairy land. Eventually cross onto National Forest land, at sign. Typical wildflowers and birds. One-bull snake, clear view, 5" long. Yellow and black. Tried game call to no avail. Staked out some sand lilies in here.

June 5, 1971. Old Stringtown Gulch Road. Mistook where the trailhead was on the topo map and couldn't make sense of the trail all morning, until I figured it out on return. Road is clearly marked, however, and perfectly straightforward. Passable by jeep, not car. Best set of bear tracks I have ever seen in here.

Later: Again June 12-14, 1978. May 5, 1990.

Best in following location. There is a sign set (one at entrance, one 1 1/4 miles up) warning of private property. Later on there is a second sign set, now in timber. First one is painted in red and black, pass this, then pass the second, facing uphill. Just past this were the tracks. Tracks matched guide perfectly. Frequently four toes showing, but in some tracks all five toes and all five claws showing. Bear was on the trail for perhaps 1/4 mile, and other tracks elsewhere. In Bear Gulch appropriately!

Game call roused one hawk flying in to investigate. One deer seen. One spike antler found. Western bluebird. Probably female Western tanager. Flushed a rusty blackbird from nest, and found three splotched eggs in it. Good spout spring, with stock tank at location shown on map. Brought in a clump of shooting star from there. Redtail hawk.

June 10, 1971. Aborted hike thru Donner Pass. Had parked car with Steve Warnock at Bighorn Ranger Station, to pick up at the north terminus after I had hiked over the Pass. Left Trailhead above Dunraven Glade about 9.00. Deer and cottontail from car. More deer and one small cottontail on hike up, got the drop on one deer. Good hike down to Miller Fork. Miller fork is the second and larger creek, with large camping area, open, and marked. Followed trail up Miller Fork, then a branch. This is old sawmill road, and a sawmill is in ruin there.

Creek must be waded at spots. Higher up trail was more obscure, and I lost it when it broke out into a large meadow, 6-10 acres. This was probably above the area where it switchbacks, as shown on topo map. Had to backtrack out. When you get turned around, take care to mark where you are, and the trail you take exploring, also your uphill footprints, before an area gets too obscured with many new footprints.

Sprained ankle jumping creek on way down, then turned it again 5 minutes later on the trail. Watch this. Walked out about four miles on it, without being too sore, though it got much sorer the next day. Many fairy slippers. Aspen was out well below, but hardly out at upper part of trail.

27 lb. backpack, but did not stay out overnight. Golden eagle flushed on the drive up Buckhorn Canyon the day before.

June 12, 1971. Jennings Bunch and Long's Peak Trail. Jennings hiked; I waited him out at the car in the parking lot, with ankle too sore to hike. He got nearly as far as Chasm Lake shelter, but turned back at a bad snowfield, too steep, within sight of the shelter. Jennings said some others crossed it. Much snow on the trail yet. Later drove up Trail Ridge road and saw two hikers going thru Granite Pass over a snowfield clearly from Many Parks Curve. The cables are iced up, and some climbers are using ice axes and ropes to get over the cables. Four parties have made it to the top; several others failed.

Upper part of Trail Ridge Road is in virtually winter condition. No sign of flora; elk have not come up yet. Later, saw about ten elk in Horseshoe Park, two bulls, well antlered at this season. A cougar has been seen in Glacier Basin, with two cubs, and I talked with a boy at the Alpine Visitor Center who had seen her.

June 13, 71. Poudre Canyon Chapel, Jeep drive up Seven Mile Creek with Howard Haise and Judy.

June 15, 71. 3 Days in Glacier Basin Campground. Drove up early a.m. Deer and elk. Halfway looking for mountain lion spotted in this area. Great horned owl's nest in one of two spruces just down from Moraine Park Campground. Returned to this nest several times. Nest was a clump of sticks in close to trunk. Mother sat out on a limb, looking around. Two owlets were variously in the nest and climbing out on limbs, flapping wings, etc. The bars in the adult were clearly visible. No horns on the immatures. Remarkable head turning, with no body motion. All birds were clearly and easily visible in broad daylight. Also red tail hawk.

Pitched camp, and napped. Following is an "observation" as copied from card in office of the chief naturalist, Mr. Alcorn (?):

Trail between Glacier Greek and YMCA. Rocky hillside above sign saying "Estes Park - 6 miles", 6-11-71 (the preceding Friday) 6.30 a.m. cloudy.

Mike saw the lioness crouching watching a group of deer. He stepped on a twig. The deer ran away and the lioness looked at him over her shoulder - surprised. She ran

away from him, over the hill out of view. The lioness was an old one (he said, giving no reasons) and had a cub with her. Someone at the Glacier Greek Stables says he sees the lioness frequently, and she has just recently moved her den to the rocky area near the sign. Observed by Michael Babcock. Mike is a photographer and works at "St. Bonnies."

Other, dated observations:

Wolverine - Hidden Valley Greek, 100 yards below Parking lot entrance. Dated: 1962

Mother Bear - 2 cubs. On Mt. Meeker, near Horsetooth. Dated: 1970

Wed. Out early and in this area, but nothing. Hiked up and around Emerald mountain. Trail is only .7 miles. Spent day leisurely. Four men on the Summit of Long's visible in scope. Tried calling in Beaver Meadows, no results.

Thurs. Out early and around the Emerald Mountain Trail. Coyote calling in woods, part bark, part howl, about 6.15. Failed to call him. Napped and then hiked up to picnic area. See sketch of trail here on map. Mallard and half a dozen ducklings in here. Flora is not yet in prime. Spragues Lake (the big one at the picnic area) is man-made, by Abner Sprague, who ran a resort here. He was a guide to Long's Peak. More deer.

Manager at the stables knew nothing of the lioness.

June 21, Monday. Left 4.00 a.m. for Grand Lake and points s.w. Deer and elk in Horseshoe Park. Also a glimpse of a coyote in scope while watching elk. Nice view, but brief, then he disappeared in the brush of Horseshoe Park.

Bird walk in Moraine Park. Greentailed towhee. Pygmy nuthatch. Tree swallow, nests in holes in aspen. Violet-green swallow. The owls are gone, but one has been seen frequently in years past sitting on the wooden bridge that crosses the Big Thompson going over to the ranger buildings. Western pewee does not make the pewee sound. Yellow bellied sapsucker. Mallard with ducklings. A peregrine falcon flushed and flew within 6 feet of me. Commonest soaring hawk after the red tail is an eagle!

Drove over Trail Ridge and pitched camp. P.m. along Colorado River there. Traill's Flycatcher. Lincoln's warbler. Later returned to Rock Cut and found three bighorn rams, nice view in scope. Stayed till dark at Rock Cut. Two porcupines: one at dusk but in good light at roadside; another on road at night.

Tuesday. Spent day on Trail Ridge road area. Tried to hike to Specimen Mtn., but crusty snow breaking through was too much for my sprained ankle. About ten cow elk with calves in upper Poudre River basin.

Hiked up Toll Memorial. Nice peakfinder on top. The following peaks are named, in order and pointed: Medicine Bow, 72 miles. Clark's, highest of the Rawah's. Noku Crags, obvious, once pointed out. Mt. Richtofen, Lead, Cirrus, Howard, Cumulus, Nimbus, Baker, Bowen, Cascade, 13.5 miles, the last of the Never Summers.

Thinly visible behind the complex above Forest Canyon: Byers Peak, 39 miles, and Quandary Peak, 73 miles (above Climax in the Tenmile Range, and a fourteener).

Stones, Taylors, Alice, Hallet, Flattop, McHenry's, Chief's Head, Pagoda, Long's, Meeker, Battle, Estes Cone, s. dome of Twin Sisters, McGregors, Bighorn Mtn., Mummy, Chiquita, Ypsilon, Chapin, and Comanche (to the left of the Saddle).

Several ravens. About 5.00 at Rock Cut there were 5 nice bighorn rams below the cut, had them all in the scope at once, great at about 30 power. About 3/4 curl for the most part. Townsend's solitaire. Many marmots.

Rock polygon - a polygon-shaped rock area of some size, often with an elevated center, a solifluction terrace.

Wind scarp - where the wind has blown the soil nearly off a saddle or other area.

Wednesday. Drove to Grand Lake, and Granby, studying the mountains along the way. Ida is very prominent from Grand Lake area. Indian Peaks are seen from the backside from Granby and difficult to name. Two prominent peaks seen from Granby and the road in from Grand Lake are Byers (the highest) and Bills, which I first took to be in the Gore Range, but they are not. They are in the Vasquez Mtns (see map). Note that while conspicuous, they do not extend a great way above timberline. The high points of the Gore Range extend a great deal above timberline.

Line of sight from the Gore Range overlook in the RMNP to Byer's Peak goes considerably left (east) of the Gore Range. Byers also figures right on maps from the peakfinder above.

To Kremmling (down Colorado River), and then up Blue River to Heeny and to Cataract Lake Road at foot of Eagle's Nest-Gore Range Primitive area. Camped at Cataract Creek Campground here. Reports of a bear in campground. Hiked next day to Surprise Lake, and returned. Enormous hawk -redtail - first took to be an eagle, on leaving next morning. Trails were marked, but not much information on climbing to the peaks.

Drove to Dillon, and on to Ruby Mtn, south of Buena Vista. Collected Apache's tears, and garnet xtals. Camped there in rough campground, but had eight car and camper loads come in in evening and early night, mostly fishermen.

Drove to Aspen, Saturday, over Independence Pass. This and Monarch Pass cross the Sawatch Mountains. Nice drive over. Many fourteeners in here. Independence was a mining town, so named because old was found there on Independence Day; now a ghost town. To Aspen and drove up Maroon Lake Road to see the Maroon Bells. There are two of them, though a third is somewhat bell-like in appearance. North Bell is somewhat lower, though the more prominent from Maroon Lake. South Bell stands higher, but rearward.

Returned home over Loveland Pass. Fast driving time Denver to Aspen over Independence Pass is 3 hours; via Glenwood Springs is 5 hours. Maroons are "Canadian-style Peaks."

Mt. Elbert, Colorado's highest, is an easy, walk-up peak, and can be climbed on skis in winter.

June 29-July 1. 1971. Backpacking trip into St. Vrain Basin. Jeep road above camp Dick. Major stream crossing is problem, but there were logs upstream which I found on return trip. Sprained ankle did fairly well. Spent first night pretty well up, after some re-tracking to find way.

The stream is re-crossed above the old sawmill area on a sturdy jeep bridge. Second day went on into the basin, and climbed a knoll there for good view. Complete snow cover yet of some

depth in the lower parts of basin. Lovely basin, with remnant glaciers.

Returned and tried to get to Red Deer Lake, but ran out of daylight and was tired. There is a new trail to Red Deer Lake, using an old logging road for first part, and leaving from the sawmill and former cabin area where I camped that night.

Cold night. Awoke to find everything frost covered, and a skiff of ice on pools of standing water, this on the morning of July 1. Little wildlife, and not especially much sign. Hiked out by noon. Signs were down, which made for a problem. Someone said that the rangers take them down in the winter because the porcupines eat them.

July 26, 1971. Hike to Emerald Lake with Theron Rolston and Frances Allen.

July 30, 1971. Trip to Estes with Mary Jack's family, and drive up Trail Ridge Road.

August 23-26. Trip to Yellowstone, with Jane and Shonny. Cabin # 23 at Fishing Bridge. First night was cold, frost all over cars, and cold in cabin. Shonny jumped out of the folding playpen when the whistling tea-kettle boiled and surprised her, though she really doesn't walk yet. Subsequent two nights much more moderate. One bear on the way in, two the following day, and that is all. Saw several buffalo in the Hayden Valley area, all at a distance. Best close-ups were of moose.

A nice bull by day in the Hayden Valley area, and photographed him. Later a nice bull at Fishing Bridge, and just below there at Pelican Creek several more bulls and one cow. Also deer and several antelope, the latter on the return drive.

Grizzlies have invaded the Canyon Campground this year, and it is closed to all but hardside campers. According to an attendant, they are trapping several a week and carrying them elsewhere in the park. The Yellow-stone is prominent in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and is a weathered rhyolite. Photo of Old Faithful and Beehive geysers.

The Grand Teton is a borderline rock scramble, technical climb. The Park service recommends that you tie in with someone. It is usually clear of snow in August. Catbird is apparently more common here than in Colo.

Sept. 5, 1971. Hike up Flattop with Jennings Bunch. Cold spell in early Sept., and high winds. Too windy to go on in comfort on top, turned back some three fourths of mile short of summit. Winds perhaps 50 mph.

Sept. 6, 1971. Labor Day. Climb of Long's Peak with Jennings Bunch. Cold weather system moved in preceding Friday, when it was mostly over-cast and cold in Fort Collins, with some rain. Snowed on most of the timberline and above areas, 3-4 inches, perhaps more west of Denver area. Phoned Long's Peak ranger station on Saturday, and trail was closed. Said cables were iced in as bad as they had been all summer. 70 mph winds on top. Saturday was good clear day, tho windy and cold, and thru the scope we saw two persons on top about 3.00. Wind was moderating some then. Ranger said virtually all parties had been turned back by high winds, able to get no further than Granite Pass. Said if we could get across the Boulderfield, we might get up the Homestretch, but probably not cable route, though they were removing the technical restriction on Monday.

Monday. Left at 4.30, not really expecting to make the summit. Started on trail at 6.00.

Perhaps 15 parties had signed in ahead of us. Wind had greatly moderated, and I did all the uphill part in my T-shirt to avoid sweating. New route goes between Jim's Grove and Mill's Moraine Trails. At the Alpine Brook Bridge about 7.00. 8.00 Chasm Lake turnoff. 8.30 Granite Pass. Must have left Boulderfield 9.30 or 9.45. There was no water here in the Hitching Rack area; perhaps it was frozen underneath some snow patches. Had to return down some .2 mile for water. Wind was no problem at all.

Climb to Chasm view. There was some ice in what seems the shortest route as you near Chasm view, and by keeping left and working up a ledge you got up with no ice or snow. Climb up to the lower cable seemed a little rougher than before. Cable was crowded and we waited some time to get on it. Started lower cable 12.00. Lower cable seemed harder than before. There was enough ice underfoot to make footholds uncertain, and this seems to have made it harder. Also do not crowd on the cables. Might try doing it without gloves; may get a better grip, though I used gloves. Upper cable was a picnic, seemed easier than before.

We had joined a fellow climbing alone, George E, Dixon, 69 Fortune Lane, St. Louis, MO 63122. He had tried it 5 times and had to turn back for one reason or another. He had come to Granite Pass Saturday.

Climb from top cable to summit presents no real problem. Note how route trends left. Reached summit about 1.00. Jennings on summit at 1.30. Perfectly clear day, and extremely clear. Great view. Left summit about 2.00. Homestretch was o.k, perhaps 2-3 bad spots on it. Backed down some places to good advantage. Generally the return keyhole route seemed easier than the previous year.

Left Keyhole at 4.15. Some mushy snow in spots here, but nothing to worry about. I arrived Boulderfield about 5.00; left there perhaps 5.15. Walked out nonstop, as we were running out of daylight. Hard hike out, but did not seem as bad as year before. Got to ranger station a little before 8.00. George used flashlight a little on way out, but we had enough daylight, but none to spare, and it was dark by the time we arrived. 14 hours round trip.

Survived without a blister, though right 2nd toenail was bruised. Feet were not nearly in as good shape as year before, nor was I in as good condition, as I had had sprained ankle most of summer, but nonetheless did very well. Remember Stanback relieves muscular pains, as well as headaches.

Following day was fair early with some cloudiness, but a fast moving cold front came through by mid-afternoon, and good rain all that evening.

If the day is obviously fair at Boulderfield, you might consider leaving jacket there. Try a smaller pack.

Sept. 16, Thurs. Began to snow about supper time, snowed all night, and there was some twelve inches on the ground by morning.

Sept. 17, Friday. Continued to snow all day, and there was 14 inches in the yard that evening. Snowed through the night.

Sept. 18, Saturday. Spit snow much of morning. 15 ½ inches, maximum accumulation.

Sept. 19, Sunday. 25° low, killed the tomatoes, which had hitherto survived, even the snow.

The ones at the front of the house were killed straight out. The ones at the back are buried under canvas, overlain by the snow. Don't seem to have been frozen.

The earliest it has ever snowed in Fort Collins was Sept. 6 in 1929, according to records maintained at CSU since 1887.

Nov. 7, 71. Picked the last of a much covered, much pressed down patch of tomatoes. 12-15, some ripe, some green, all pretty good. Many others had been variously frozen. Been covering then six weeks to two months. Two really severe spells of weather, one in Sept. (above; and another in late October. Picked maybe 200 tomatoes in this period.

Nov, 13, 1971, Saturday. Started about 1.00 from Ft. Collins Filtration Plant (Seaman Reservoir) probing the Greyrock Route from the reservoir. Windy day, clear. Nice trail goes right by the dam and trends north along reservoir, then at sign, turns west and climbs. (Wintersteen Trail on map) Easily followed to an overlook over the filtration plant, then difficult to follow. Followed it with difficulty another half mile or so, then was running out of time. Goes thru many open areas, hard to pick up, and is confused by many cattle trails.

Take a long summer day and see if you can pick your way thru here. Or try it from the other end. A party came out about the time I came out that had come thru from Greyrock, but had lost the trail and had to cut cross country, and were pretty bushed.

Nov. 26, 1971, Friday. Donner Hill Trail. Clear, pretty day, but light skiff of snow the night before. Put chains on going to Ranger Station. Left Buckhorn Ranger Station at 8.00. Good foot trail, blazed acceptably to Donner Pass, small axe blaze over larger one.

Ascend 3/4 mile, then descend rather steeply to creek. Cross on wooden plank bridge, then ascend creek to 1st road. This road was used by jeeps later in day. Cross and ascend on faint logging road rather straight up creek, although the trail leaves the road and returns to it twice.

This is Buckhorn Creek. Come to large open area with hunter's cabin, still in use, cow skull over door. Collapsed cabin in smaller clear area is reached first, but not noticed. There is also a tumble down cabin below here passed on trail, saw mining claim sign: beryl and feldspar.

Trail continues up creek, foot trail. Road probably comes around as per map. Trail seems relocated as on map. Cross old Ballard Road, Better of the two roads, also used by jeeps during the day. Here even looked passable by car.

2 beaver dams below here. On return about 6 boys were winter camping in here. Trail route is marked south of Ballard Road. Ascend, eventually pass lookout point at switchback. Trail seems to go east of 9445 foot knob as on map. Ascend, and join abruptly a sawmill road. This would be a very easy place to miss if hiking north. The sawmill road probably comes out, however, as on map. Ascend road to sawmill, and on footpath to Donner Pass. Reached pass at noon. About 4" of snow under foot, sometimes 6". This is the north side. Pass is wooded, but clearly marked with signs. 4 trail junction. A Signal Mountain trail is not shown on the maps. Looks as though the most recent blazing was continued on out the Sheep Creek Trail. Lunched here.

Pressed on for an hour on Miller Fork Trail. This is good trail, though not so well blazed as before, and clearly goes on thru. Found two switchbacks as indicated, but the third I was expecting seems blocked off, and trail proceeds on to open area. Rather spectacular area,

many scattered boulders in field of several acres, sloping, with good view. Turned around here, but trail was no trouble to follow onward. Couldn't have been far to the sawmill found on June 10, 71. Turned around 1.00 p.m.

Returned to Pass by 2.00 p.m., but climb was hard. Hiked out by 4.45 p.m., but with only about 15 minutes good daylight left. 11-12 miles, the longest winter hike I have taken. Snow underfoot much of the day, but always light; no problems with drifts. Tracks interesting. Many, many red squirrels; many small mammals. Chickadees, jays, ravens, woodpeckers.

Dec. 12? or perhaps preceding Sunday, 1971. 66 pound timber wolf killed near Luray, Virginia. First known wolf in Virginia in this century. See picture in subsequent Richmond Times Dispatch, with Max Carpenter of Virginia Game Commission. Wolf had probably been in captivity and had a rifle wound about a week old. Killed by Charles C. Bradley, age 16.

Dec. 15. Cross-country skied at Bear Lake. First time on cross country skis. O.K, but iced up a good deal.

c. Dec. 15, 1971. Ate the last of the long refrigerated summer tomatoes.

Dec. 29, 1971. Cross-country skied with Fred and Mary Johnson, and Pat McKee on Green Ridge Trail, Poudre Canyon. Had to put chains on about Sleeping Elephant Campground, but road was easily passable to Chamber's Lake and beyond, had been plowed. Clear in Ft. Collins, pretty but sometimes spitting some snow in the high country.

Took the trailhead just above Lost Lake and skied in to Laramie Lake (with sign, and outhouse along the way), and then on to trail junction in open area, where roads divide between the twin lakes. Several have missed the way in here, but there is now a sign. Skied on to East Twin Lake. The approach is in a narrow, flat, open area resembling an airstrip. Found the trail past the lake, onward on Green Ridge, pursued it a short ways. Lunched enroute. About 5 hours, and perhaps 6 miles round trip.

Coyotes roadside on return. Several miles above Arrowhead Lodge, one coyote was spotted in meadow, with another more hidden in the brush. Nice view, though no binoculars. Ran with tail down; gray, and, after study, noticeably larger than a fox. Afterward examined the tracks in the light snow cover here. In stretches the tracks were rather straight, though not really string straight, as with fox. Toe pads did not show well. Tracks were by no means large, and would definitely not strike you as those of a large dog. The second coyote was rather smaller than the first, and this showed in the prints.

End of 1971.



1972

Jan. 15, 1972. Cross country ski clinic at Woods Landing turnoff (Laramie River Road). Road blocked further up toward Chambers, though Laramie River Road was open further up.

Jan. 27, 1972. Story on wolves in Coloradoan. In Nov. 1970 in Laramie River country in Larimer Co. a wolf was trapped and shot, and the pelt sold for \$ 14. Before the trapper killed it, he heard others whining in nearby woods. Two pups with a female have been seen in the Rawah Wilderness Area on several occasions. The trapped wolf may have been one of the pups. Tracks have been photographed in the snow.

In the 1969-1970 hunting season a wolf was spotted in Archuleta County between Pagosa Springs and Durango Colo. These are the first reports of wolves in Colo. since 1944. In 1916, 18 were seen. In 1917, 11 were reported, and in 1918, 9 were reported. In 1919 the figure jumped to 22, in 1920, 17, and in 1921 26 were spotted. In 1922 the total dropped to 11, and to 8 in 1923. One wolf was seen in 1924, another in 1926, another in 1929, another in 1938, and one in 1944. The 1969-1970 sightings were the first since 1944. - Mike Stone, conservationist for Colo. Game, Fish, and Parks Division.

Feb. 18, 1972. Crocus sprouts have been up a week or ten days, and seem to come equally, whether covered with pine mulch or not. Almost overnight one has flowered, though not fully opened, in a spell of warm weather. Perhaps a half dozen jonquils are poking through, one 1"-2" high.

Feb. 12, 1972. Brief hike from CSU foothills campus up to Horsetooth Reservoir, after looking at old waterworks.

Last part of Feb. 273 crocus plants in bloom. Spell of warm weather in here.

March 1-8. Weather continues warm. Some buds opening up. A little forsythia at CSU is in bloom. 1st jonquil at front of house in full bloom March 8. Tulips just beginning to appear above ground in back of house.

March 4. Skied to Albert's Falls and to Nymph lake in Rocky Mountain N.P. About 10 deer. One tassel-eared squirrel (Abert's squirrel).

March 12. Pasqueflower in bloom at Ft. Collins waterworks in Poudre Canyon. Perhaps 50 of them on hillside next to road across bridge. Maple in flower and alder catkins down here.

Nothing else out. 3 jonquils at home. Is there a flower the size of the Pasque Flower in bloom by March 12 in the East?

March 15-23. Trip East. In Richmond spring was notably in progress. Forsythia out, and some flowering trees appeared while I was there. Spring weeds in evidence, the small ones. But in the woods outside Richmond there was not a great deal of evidence of spring. No flowers found, besides the European weeds, in hike at presbytery Camp.

March 25. Skiing at Cameron Pass and Zimmerman Lake. Left about 7.00 a.m. Bighorn ram - half curl - about 2 miles below Trout Ponds, perhaps a mile below the Home Moraine turnout. I saw him roadside, stopped the car some 30 yards past and watched, him at roadside. He was eating grass. Later watched him above the road a little, and through binoculars, though he was too close to need binoculars. Did not spook easily. Two bluejays at Laporte Lions Park.

To my surprise the road was plowed all the way to Cameron Pass. Typically 4-5 or 6 feet of snow on each side of road. Parked car some ways above Joe Wright Reservoir, tried to ski, and ended up walking up to the pass. Lunched there. Skied down rather successfully to the point where the Zimmerman Lake trail takes off, and climbed this to an overlook over the main road.

Lost the trail/road eventually, but found it for the first half mile or more, until the terrain opened up. Tracks - perhaps a coyote. Returned to car about 4.00. Waxing troubles, compounded by sun and shade show conditions.

Alder catkins are down below Arrowhead. Easily a thousand Pasque Flowers - and perhaps a hundred spring beauties at Ft. Collins Waterworks. No Mertensia in bloom, but found one or two in bud. Pair of American mergansers. Kingfishers.

March 30, 1972. Giles arrives.

May 20, 72. Stroll up Arthur's Rock trail.

May 28, 72. Striped skunk prowling roadside, enroute to Nunn.

May 31, 1972. Hike to Fern Lake and Odessa Lake with Mike McCullough. Five deer from car on way in. Left trailhead and hiked past Arch Rocks to Pool. Return trail to Cub leads eastward, and runs along the break of the flats to the mountain here. Another trail into the flats soon returns to main Cub Lake trail. Fern Lake Trail slabs south of a hillside, forested above and open below. I had earlier lost this trail (on snowshoes here) because I went up and over a saddle here.

Steady but reasonable climb on to Fern Lake, past Fern Falls. Reached snow about Fern Lake. Good camping areas at Fern Lake. Several cabins. One, an old lodge, is open and could be used for winter shelter. A ranger station is locked.

Fished Fern for about an hour and a half with only one strike. Saw marten carrying off a slice of bread from somebody's lunch. Several parties camping here.

Hike on to Odessa was with more snow underfoot than ground, and many deep drifts. Odessa was still frozen, but the ice was mushy. Notchtop, Little Matterhorn, and the Gable are prominent here.







June 4, 72. First poppies in bloom.

June 8, 72. Greyrock and Wintersteen Trail. Nice, but uneventful climb to foot of Greyrock. Spring flora in prime and much bird activity. One deer. Wintersteen trail is difficult to locate, but takes off eastward from south end of flat area. Soon pick up some cairns and blazes. Trail is followed with difficulty by a combination of map, blazes, and stone cairns, often pole cairns. Sometimes it is clearly a trail, but in open areas you have to cast around for it.

Cairns do pretty well as far as junction with Jeep Road to Brinkhoff mine. Jeep road enters in a grassy area, and is hardly noticeable as a road until you explore it a little, but soon becomes definitely a road either way. Jeep road proceeds across grassy saddle, narrow and conspicuous saddle, and onward to Brinkhoff mine. Mine is notable area of diggings. Collected crystalline mineral here (Later: garnet). Good feldspar and mica of both kinds. Lunched here.

Route (not road) continues, cairns are fair in here, and comes to high saddle with good reservoir view. Descends down open hill crest by some salted ground in a couple of spots, and at a metal sign (Salt Ground # 1) turns left for steep descent. Pick up 3 strand wire fence in here. Arrive at lower grassy saddle, where I terminated hike in November 1971 in from other end. Stock tank and spring in below here.

Returning, I walked half mile or more downward on Jeep trail toward Long Draw. In spots this is hardly more than a route across open areas, but becomes definitely a road, and probably could be followed without difficulty. Second deer in p.m.

July 8, 1972. Mummy Pass. Drove to CSU Pingree Park Campus. Usual route (maybe only route) is as follows: Go into CSU Camp, and go up a road marked North Dorm. This is the one on the topo sheet that leads into the long parallel road. Road into Ranch at upper end of Pingree Park is blocked with gate at point just above CSU camp where Stormy Peaks trail takes off. This, incidentally, is marked as a trail head. (I did not see sign marking Signal Mountain Trailhead lower down, but it may be there.) This road, up Fall creek, is locally called the Cirque Road. Good 4WD road, and sedan might make it. Some high slung cars were using it.

Uneventful walk to Mummy Pass Trail turnoff. This is clearly marked and is at a sort of campground, not far past where the road crosses the creek. Trail is blazed with little blaze over a big one, fairly intensively thru the timber, and this route would probably not be difficult to find in winter. Joined a party of four from CSU Institute at Pingree Park, and remained with them till lunch.

Ascend to timberline, then cross Park Boundary and ascend to a brow which yields to a flat area. Trail then rises and falls off and on, past small ponds to Mummy Pass. The Pass was not marked and is a broad open pass.

Typical alpine day and good flora. Noted pika scat, like BB shot. A ropey soft earth ground formation caused by gophers that tunnel in the snow; and pack the tunnel solid? Check this.

Uneventful return. Round trip about 11 miles. Trip would be only 8 miles from 4WD end point. Cairns are intermittent above timberline. With much snow cover, trail might be a problem. Route to pass could probably be found, due to surrounding topography for reference. especially Fall Mountain. CSU Camp is at 9,000 ft. (500 ft lower than Bear Lake). What kind of snow is in here in winter? Get a Blue Book, and Forester's Book that describes the natural history, etc., of the area.

July 12. Picked first ripe tomato.

Aug. 21, 1972. Donner Hill Trail. Left home 5 a.m. Deer in dawn at Horsetooth. On trail 7.00 a.m. At Donner Pass, as before, about 9.00. Descend for about 3 hours, longer than I would have supposed, and finally broke out to Miller Fork.

Jumped two or more elk in brush. Trail descends as noted on topo sheet as best I can tell, and is not shown on printed map. It joins the Miller Fork Trail, on which I was formerly lost, perhaps ½ mile above the nice campsite where the Signal Mtn trail first hits Miller Fork. Very easily missed in here, and not marked. There is a Lookout Mtn sign about 200 yards below which is uninformative as there is no junction there. About 200 yards above this, you must leave the Miller Fork Trail, which is the more obvious trail, and take a sharp right to ascend Donner Pass Trail.

Some ½ mile above this there is a three-way trail junction in a saddle: (1) Donner Hill, (2) Miller Fork and (3) trail out to Glen Haven. Some nice lookouts on rocks, and nice spires above here. Good water in August. Saw Blue Grouse well on return, rather tame. Many chickarees.

Return by steady hike out, about 5.45 p.m. Long hike, 16 miles round trip. Cabin in open area as noted earlier, had burned. Met four packers who had missed the trail like I did. Rare Oakfern, Phegopteris, in here.

August 24-26, 1972. Backpack trip to Lost Lake, RMNP. Got backcountry permit and left trailhead about 9.30 a.m. This trailhead (head of Dunraven Glade) was reworked last summer, and you no longer go to the top of the saddle. Parking, area built just before the last rise to the saddle.

Trail Ridge Road was closed the night before due to snow, and remained closed until up in the day. It had rained hard all night, and was raining as I set out.

Ascend briefly, then drop to North Fork Big Thompson. Proceed upstream to Cheeley Camp (closed when I went by). Continue to Deserted Village (a single cabin), and on to North Fork Ranger Station. Had coffee and lunched with Trail Crew taking shelter from rain there.

Many ouzels, and squirrels. Snow was visible on mountains above timberline.

After lunch, rain ceased, but increasing snow underfoot kept it a wet walk. About 4" of snow at Lost Lake. Camped at sheltering rock. Clear by night, but the night was cold. Ice around in the morning. Fished the lake without success in the a.m., then lunched at camp, and hiked to Lake Husted to fish. Caught one brookie which I ate for breakfast, and let several others get away.

Cool but clear in a.m., and increasing cloudiness in p.m. Little rain. Elk sign. Party of four came in about supper time.

Second night less cold, and clear in a.m. Hiked out, stopping to fish a little at beaver ponds just upward from Ranger Station. Rained hard beginning during lunch and continuing for several hours. Feet got wet. Cleared by time I got out about 3.30. Round trip, including trip to Husted 21 miles. Parka seems to leak. Waterproof it.

Later: Returned to this area again, August 1987, August 1999, and, up the North Fork

backpacking, and to Stormy Peaks, September 2001.

August 28-30, 1972. Climb of Mt. Meeker. Left Copeland Lake on Sandbeach Lake Trail about 9.00 a.m. Leisurely 4 miles in, with lunch enroute. Nice lake with sandy beach. Mixed weather, but often fair. Uneventful evening, Rose early a.m., and had breakfast, but weather was so bad I went back to bed. About 8:30 weather improved, and I set out for Meeker.

Climbed as suggested in Trail Guide to Park. Contoured around from where Sandbeach Lake trail turns south toward Lake. Went north, and crossed Hunter's Creek, shortly in open, and long climb up toward Dragon's Egg Rock. Bear left and on up to a prominent weeping rock. Ptarmigan here, two of them, and tame as chickens. Took photos. Took false route up, and got too steep, so backtracked and took another route to ridge, and then climbed ridge on to summit.

True summit, which I reached, is west. A lower summit is east. Summit is rather narrow and knife edged, in contrast to Long's. Nice view of Long's and weather was co-operative.

Uneventful descent, very slow on account of a bruised toenail. Got confused in wooded portion, and had to descend Hunter's creek to where it crosses the Sandbeach Lake trail, bushwhacking. Back to camp about 7.00. Mild evening.

Next morning was windy, but clear, though nice cumulus clouds over the peaks. Meeker at 13,911 feet is second highest peak in the park. Chief's Head is 3rd. Total trip, 20 miles, plus some unnecessary ramblings.

Sept. 4-6, 1972. Mirror Lake Trip. Got stuck on Long Draw Road, in middle section. Boy, this is messy after a rain. Four Wheeler pulled me out after a while, and no troubles on upper part of road, though ran over a big bump trying to turn around on Long Draw Campground road and had to jack out.

Parked at junction of road and corral Creek and descended foot trail to Poudre River. Corral Creek shortly joins, Poudre Pass Creek. Good footbridge and marked trail over Poudre Pass creek, and shortly above this is the Poudre River.

National Park Boundary sign at Poudre Pass creek. A quarter mile or so above this is mouth of Hague Creek (and campsite), marked. But apparently there is no footbridge southward, up Chapin Creek trail, but you have to use the footbridge over the Poudre River mentioned, above.

Followed Mummy Pass Trail up Hague's Creek, then it ascends steeply and goes over (with little drop) into Cascade Creek drainage. Mirror Lake trail turnoff well marked. Arrived at Koenig cabin site about 1.30 p.m. Old cabin in here, still provides some shelter. Fished in creek and caught two, which I ate for breakfast the following a.m. Decent weather and fair night.

Later: cabin was gone in 1989.

Fished early a.m., and caught two more, but then it began to rain. After breakfast, fished Mirror Lake, caught one. Biggest of these, all brookies, about 9". Returned to lunch, and went up Comanche Peak. Good blazed trail, though turnoff, at Cabin site, is not marked. Above timberline, there are cairns, but distantly spaced, and a good deal of trouble to follow. I eventually lost them, and made for the peak. Went first to the 12,681 summit, then down the saddle to Comanche Peak, 12,702, Thought I had more time than I did, as my watch was

running an hour late. Uneventful return, though 4 elk on meadow's edge below. Deer, the day before when I arrived at campsite.

On return tried to go up to Mirror Lake to fish, but this was a mistake. It rained, and was getting dark sooner than I expected, since my watch was an hour wrong. Cooked supper in dark, and flashlight gave out. Carry extra batteries. Went to bed under clear skies, but soon rained much of night. Little sleep.

Started snowing at daybreak and was still snowing mid-morning, so I decided to come out a day early. Caught one trout, the seventh, that a.m., but was too cold to fish comfortably. Packed out without incident, though the drive back down Long Draw road was hairy. A sea of mud. Up slope conditions made rainy cold weather several days here. About 20 miles.

Sept. 8-9, 72. Trip to Pawnee Buttes. Drive out Fri. a.m., with many prowl stops. Lunched where I was later to camp, at a rather bleak wayside north of Raymer. Spent most of p.m. in walk to the Buttes, climbing the East Butte, scaled by means of hand and footholds carved in the north side. About a three mile hike in here from where I parked the car to the Buttes. Returned to wayside to camp, and uneventful evening.

Returned in a.m. to Kalouse (road junction) and noted site of brown jasper. Lunched in Stoneham, and went on to barite site north of there, as described by Pearl. Collected nice barite xtals, including one esp. good xtal group. Returned to Stoneham, and a rodeo there. Collected a number of plants and several grasses. Found the birds rather confusing, despite some effort to pin them down. Many marsh hawks. One herd of 24 antelope. See story on the buttes in Colorado Outdoors, Nov.-Dec. 1971.

Oct. 29, 1972. Very late fall, and no really killing frost to date. There have been several frosts and some things are nipped, but nothing is killed. Still have roses, many of them, and a clematis is in bloom, also a columbine, and a delphinium is about to bloom. Tomatoes are about gone, but have not frozen, though I have regularly covered them. Many chrysanthemums. Trail Ridge Road was closed for the winter today, later closure than usual.

Dec. 6, 1972. Record cold. -18 in Ft. Collins at CSU station. My thermometer read -20, and radio station read -21. Had several cold snows lately, and snow has been in shade trimline of house since before Thanksgiving.

Record low in Ft. Collins was -41 on Feb. 1, 1951.

end 1972.



1973

Feb. 10, 1973. Snowshoed with Jennings Bunch about 2/3 way to west White Pine Lookout Tower, Buckhorn Canyon. Solid snow underfoot all the way, to 2' deep often on trail. Buckhorn Road snowpacked virtually all the way from the bottom, and Pennock Pass closed at Golden Eagle Store about ½ mile up from Ranger Station. Snowfence across the road. Ranger apparently lives in this house here now. First trip this far with Scout. Two weeks ago I drove a ways up the canyon in 14" of unbroken snow.

Feb, 19, 73. First crocus comes into bloom literally overnight, and within a few days nearly a hundred are in bloom.

March 17, 73. No Pasque Flowers at Ft. Collins water works. Alder catkins down,

March 20, 73. Skiing with Don Crosby at Medicine Bow. Clear dry road to about 4 miles above Centennial, after a blizzard in Wyoming the week before. Much snow in mtns, and often on plains, though some of the plains were bare.

Lovely spring day, but skiing was tough. Never seemed to get the right wax (tried mostly purple and red), and had little control. Road is closed about 2 miles past turn off to Commercial ski area. Maybe 73 antelope enroute, often close to the road, and about 40 deer largely in the open.

Violet at the porch is in bud. Might have a jonquil open in a day or two.

April 1, 73. Yellow plains violets and Lesquerella below cliffs on road to Horsetooth, above Dixon's Reservoir, but only this in southwestern exposures. Is this a late spring? Crocus, jonquils, and a violet or two at home, but Forsythia are not opening yet, though a few other things are.

June 26, 1973. Appalachian Trail in Virginia. Packed in to Sawmill Run, only half a mile off the Blue Ridge Parkway. Nice to be back in the hardwood forest. Several deer. Lean-to has small, but satisfactory spring. Jumped a fox on the way in, heard him bark, and got really nice views of him up the trail from the lean-to about dusk. Gray fox, pretty much as pictured in Burt & Grossenheider. Birds, chipmunks, etc., as usual. Four others in the lean-to.

June 27, 1973. Hiked in to Rip Rap shelter, on circle trail, coming in on southern half of the loop. Trail satisfactory and well marked. Many were hiking here in shorts, but said that in N.C. and Tenn. they had not been able to. No mosquitoes. Nice pool at Rip Rap, took a dip. Water

cold. Ruffed grouse. Two Scout troops in here, one up out of earshot, the other in the lean-to, coming in later in the day. Rained all night, but no trouble. Clearing and lovely in the a.m. Total trip about 10-12 miles. About a dozen deer. New to me and prominent was Turkeybeard, Xerophyllum, lily with inconspicuous flowers in sizeable head. Filiform leaves, three feet high or so.

Also much in evidence was Goatsbeard, Aruncus.

July 8, 73. Poudre River Nature Area with Shonny. Sizeable turtle on way in, and two red headed woodpeckers. Many mosquitoes.

July 11. Signal Mtn. Hike. Took Scout up Old Ballard Road to junction with Donner Pass Trail. Thence to Donner Pass. Signal Mtn. trail rises abruptly for a while, then becomes a gentle dry woods trail, double blazed. No trouble to follow the blazes, though the trail is little built. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Arrive at junction with road, which I later followed out. Follow road half mile or so to its terminus, and signs indicating the Signal Mtn. Trail, also the Pennock Creek Trail.

Abrupt climb to Signal Mtn. Lovely day, flora out, but not dramatically so. Return and followed road out. Just how this comes out I do not know. Met two boys earlier who had hiked it out and come out on Ballard Road. But I came out on Greer Road. See notes on map, indicating probable hookup of these roads. A little more hike than I was in condition for. About 12 miles.

July 12. Picked first tomato. An Early Boy.

July 21. Black Lake with Bill Brice. Left about 7.30, after three days of rain, and in a good fog, but it broke up enroute to Estes and had lovely day. Delightful, but uneventful hike in. Trail as before to Loch Vale Junction, then to Mills Lake.

Two wood bridges in here. Might find this trail in winter, and might not. Went upstream another two miles to Black Lake. Rather wet underfoot, and fair trail, but no highway. Very well might not find it in winter, though you could hardly get lost in the valley. Lovely views of Longs, Pagoda, and Chief's Head, later on up, of McHenry's.

Stone Man of Stone Man Pass is obvious in here, a rock pillar visible from some distance away, diminutive from a distance, but rising above horizon and notable.

Spearhead is visible on the way in, and further up, Arrowhead is prominent. Black Lake is in too much of a cirque to see the Long's side, so we climbed up some more. With binoculars, could see the trail tracks in the Trough in a snow field there, and saw two hikers there. No wildlife, except chipmunks. Few birds.

Good water all the way. Saw fish break in Black Lake and saw fish in the water at Jewel. 10 miles.

July 27-29. Family Camp at Wesley Swan Ranch. First camping out with Shonny & Giles. Packed Scout and went up Friday p.m., to Wesley Swan Ranch about 5 miles short of Red Feather Lakes. Church Family Camp has been here for several years. About 30 people, many of them church staff - Bairds, Fairchilds, James Hawthornes, Norstadts, Steigmillers, Comps, Ed. Carrolls. Campfires Fri & Sat nites, two family sessions on Saturday, and Church on Sunday.

Hiked to Lady Moon Lake on Saturday nearby, and again on Sunday. Ducks there, also snake - grass snake or something like that - maybe 18" long, at 8300 ft. Baby muskrat was quite tame and fascinated Shonny. Myriads of frogs in the pond adjacent to the camp. Typical tho slim birdlife. Swan has been in this country since 1902, on this ranch since 1948, also owns one at Livermore.

August 4. Stormy Peaks. Hiked alone. Left parking area & trailhead above CSU Forestry Camp about 9.00 a.m. Though sign says 3 miles, it is a good 5 miles to the pass. Good trail, double blazed below, though in many spots hardly a graded trail and in open areas might well be lost in winter, except for the double blazes. Reach good water in 2-3 miles, and then abrupt trail turn, with change of distant scenery (see map) and turn from s.w. trend to s.e. trend. Shortly cross Park Boundary Signs, and soon emerge above timberline.

Above timberline there is hardly, a trail, but a cairn marked route, small cairns, but can be followed with attention, stays considerably out of the valley bottom, up below the peaks on the n.e. side. Trail looks good on past the pass, and one party I met said there was no trouble following it. Little wildlife, but flora was good, especially the alpine.

August 7. Rollins Pass. Left 9.00 a.m. in Scout with the family. Good day, often lovely, one or two showers. Went to Boulder, Nederland, Rollinsville and up the pass. Lunched on way up at a place where the show shovels used to be housed. On up to timberline, tunnel at ridge end, over two trestles and to top. Returned from there. Flora was prime. Three ptarmigan chicks roadside on return. Several by-roads and trails leave from here and could be explored.

Aug. 10-11. Lake of the Clouds. Left 6.30 a.m. with Fred Johnson. Left Phantom Ranch about 10.00 a.m. Hiked up Red Mountain Trail to Grand Ditch, thence to Big Dutch Creek. Good bridge across Grand Ditch here, and trail up Hitchens Gulch. Trail continues to an open area, with small pond, filled with weeds. See map. One trail continues, presumably out of timber in flat rock field ahead. Another turns down and left to descend shortly to long shaped lake on creek with marked National Park Campsite. Trail ends here and continue with rock scramble up the 800 foot drop-off from Lake of the Clouds. Perhaps two dozen elk below Specimen Mountain, and a few deer enroute.

Pitched tent below lake to escape wind. Cooked on gas stove. Caught one very nice cutthroat trout on a spinner, but no further success. Could see many fish in the lake, all large, and one party left with about a dozen large cutthroat. Rain in the night, and some quick showers, but good weather. Return beginning about noon, out by 3.30 p. m.

August 28. American Lakes, Thunder Pass, Lulu Mountain. Left 6.00 a.m. about daybreak. Two coyotes in Sleeping Elephant Mountain Area, at edge of pasture. Watched them several minutes in binoculars. On to Cameron Pass, and then to American Lakes Road. This is Colorado State Forest and marked.

Good road (passable by car) to old Willey Lumber Camp Area, rougher after that but no trouble in Scout. Road is blocked about where it bends back southwest, in an area where there is an old stock shelter.

Two miles to American Lakes, 2.5 to Thunder Pass. Hiked up alone, but was joined by Jim Puckett, a geologist from Univ. Utah, with M.A. from CSU. Area has been mapped by a study by Crockett, maybe from Idaho State. Walked mostly over Tertiary materials, kin to those from Specimen Mountain. West of Thunder Pass is an andesite (my specimen no. R29.2), east is

a rhyolite, and supposedly another rhyolite (my specimen no. R7.1), a volcanic plug, in area of summit of Lulu Mountain, but we never identified this. Climbed to summit of Lulu Mountain. Ptarmigan hen with two chicks, the chicks identifiable but of some size. Lovely day. Round trip on foot maybe 6 miles.

Puckett's M.A. thesis was on diatremes (volcanic pipes) north of Fort Collins. There are some Silurian sedimentary inclusions in them, with fossils, the only Silurian known in the area. Look this up sometime and check it out.

Sept. 8, 73. Chasm Lake & Mills Glacier with Frank Vattano. Left 6.00 a.m. On trail 7.30 a.m. Cloudy and overcast on plains, but clear and shining in Estes and on trail. No evidence of frost at campground elevation, but some frost burn began to appear about timberline. Flora was mostly past, burnt, but not really frozen out, and not especially brown. New campground has been put in at Goblins Forest, in a mile or so. Uneventful, but grand climb to Chasm Lake.

From Shelter Cabin to Chasm Lake is really an easy scramble. Keep left, behind shelter, and in toward wall. Only one place really requires hands. Four climbers on the East face, in the general area of Stettner's Ledges. Made way around lake to right and to west side of . Here, about at lake terminus westward) but above the lake is a natural shelter cove, which you are pretty much funnelled by. Lunched a little above this, then went on up to Mills Glacier. Not a bad climb, mostly a rock scramble. Spectacular view of the East Face & Diamond. Picked out many of the climbing routes.

Return, and conversation with ranger named Fricke at Shelter Cabin. The Cabin is now to be locked, to discourage dependence on it, especially in winter. Fricke has written a technical climbing guide to the park. He says a good guide can get a seasoned, but ordinary hiker up Kiener's Route; this is their stock in trade.

Lower route is up the Lamb's Slide or maybe on the rock left of it. Route way left can be used, but is full of talus. In July or early August you can kick steps in the snow, but later on it gets icy and you use crampons. Guide will go above you and rope you in. Then up South Broadway to the snow patch. They will use rope right above this for a couple hundred feet, and then free climb to the top,

He also says McHenry's is a "hike," not a climb. He wouldn't take rope. Go late in the summer and there will be no snowfield below Stone Man Pass, and the snowfield above the pass will be small enough that you can get around it. Half dozen marmots on top so tame you had to shoo them away. Several ravens about the East face. Perhaps 80 parties had signed the trail register, and many made the summit not yet iced up. Cables on the north face were removed for safety reasons, and to comply with the wilderness ideal (no artificial installations).

Average date of first killing frost in fort Collins is Sept. 29 - from USDA, Climate and Man, cited in Coloradoan.

c. Oct. 10, 1973. Heard Elk calls in RMNP. Hiked up lower Lawn Lake Trailhead about dark, & counted 110 calls, plus coyote calls. Bright moon and hiked out without flashlights. With Fred Johnson. Also saw about half a dozen elk, including two bulls charging, thru binoculars, at some distance across the valley.

Dec. 10, 1973. Ski trip to Deadman Lookout Tower. Dry road to Red Feather. Deadman Road was open for logging. It is often closed at a cattle gate and National Forest Boundary Sign not



**Chasm Lake, 1973**

far past the Catholic Church. Plowed, but entirely snowpacked at the upper end, and if not plowed it would have been impassable. No problems going in the Scout.

Skied in to Deadman, 3 miles, and return, 6 miles, in about 3 hours, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lovely day and ideal skiing. Windy on top. On return a large logging truck passed, and I slipped into snowdrift passing him slowly, and he promptly pulled me out. But I got stuck a little more readily than I thought, but the road underfoot here was very slippery.

end 1973.

1974

Feb. 12, 1974. First crocus in bloom, a single one near the sidewalk.

Feb. 24, 74. A hundred or so crocus in bloom. Maple tree in church parking lot is flowering a little - pistils out. Pasque Flower at the s.e. corner of the house is two thirds out in flower. Discovered, under spruce branch cover, 5 violets in bloom - V. odorata semperflorens - at s.e. corner.

April 21, 1974. With Jane & family to Ft. Collins waterworks. Several sets of goslings at Terry Lake. At the waterworks Pasque Flower, Mertensia, Claytonia, Draba nemerosa, D. reptans (Carolina Whitlow Grass), and Arabis fendleri.

March 30, 1974. With Shonny and Kelly Brice at Ft. Collins waterworks. Pasque Flower, several hundred but not really out yet. A few Claytonia. Very dark beaver in the river. Mergansers. Pat McKee saw a bald eagle at Virginia Dale.

Jane was hospitalized thru here.

May 18, 1974. Coyote in fields south of town, on drive back from Timnath and lower down on Poudre River. Watched him several minutes. Also muskrat in the river. Keyed Cardaria draba, Whiteweed.

May 29, 1974. With Kevin Keane to Cherokee Park State Wildlife Area (on Cherokee Park Road, not Red Feather road). Drove to Lower unit, and went down pickup road to Middle Fork Rabbit Creek. Walked down to single lonesome cabin, then old ranch site. Golden eagle seen from the Scout enroute. Typical birds, tho saw catbird here - first 1 have seen in Colorado. Hawk, probably Swainson's, apparently nesting in cliffs, and with notable alarm call. Flora is dry and disappointing.

Proceeded to Middle unit, and drove to Halligan's Reservoir for lunch. Good pickup road. Then return to entrance and up road to Turkey Roost. Good climb but o.k. in Scout. Past fence with warning for 4WD only, and steep descent to old prospect and N. Fork Poudre River. Latter part a walk on private lands, leased for hunting. River is clearly impassable in spring run off. No game seen.

June 12, 1974. Cherokee Park Wildlife Area, Upper Unit (on Diamond Peak Quad). Drove to Sheep Creek Campground in Sec. 27 without incident. On N. Fork Poudre. Good sedan road in here, but watch it after hard rain. Hiked up trail roughly following Cornelius Greek. 2 golden eagles. This is jeep road (Acme Creek Road), but locked off. Saw coyote in meadow and called him with caller. He and his mate came running at once

but spooked at maybe 30 yards, after coming from 200 yards. More coyote scat and tracks in here than I ever remember. Also much elk and deer sign. Flora in rather good shape, but not exciting. Later: Again, Nov. 13, 1994.

June 22, 1974. Middle Bald Mountain with Don Crosby. Left 6.00 a.m. On trail at North Fork Poudre Campground at 8.00. Easy, uneventful, and delightful climb up Killpecker Creek first mile and a half. Then emerge in clearcut area, and rise to very good road. Fairly near the creek, about as indicated on topo sheets trail can be found proceeding south. New blazes are mixed with old blazes throughout hike so far.

Continue, mostly on older blazes to spring. Watch route here. Follow old blazes (small blaze over long, blaze) on to open area. Some cairns in here, and abandoned camp. Large tarp, gasoline cans, old barrel stove. Nearby is a second road. Clearcut area, which we found trail across with difficulty. Where you break out to the road, there is (going downhill) the word trail, carved and written in red paint down a tree. From here a blaze can be seen on a tree surviving the clearcut, tho we missed it on way up. There is rough trail south and up the clearcut, and one or two more blazes surviving on standing trees.

Leave clearcut, follow old blazes with difficulty, and emerge on very large open area as mapped. Good view of Rawahs. Some pole cairns in here, inc. one where you turn south into timber out of meadow. Follow blazes with difficulty till you break out with commanding view of Middle Bald Mountain. No trail here only a route.

We climbed Middle Bald Mtn. for lunch. Pole cairn where you emerge from timber, and also cairns were found as mapped toward trail junction and South Bald Mountain. North, Middle, and South Bald Mountain are all notable here, and you should get from one to the other without too much difficulty. View of Rawahs is unexcelled. Also Never Summers, and to the South beyond Crown Point, Mt. Ida and Specimen Mtn. Remaining Rocky Mtn. Park area was obscured by clouds. Also Wyoming Medicine Bows. Uneventful return, tho we had to pick the route back even with some care.

Come in here on other trails. Find where the two main roads in here terminate. Both looked virtually passable by sedan here. On return the lower trailhead of the North Lone Pine Trail was located. Not marked, go carefully, but it is there and looks o.k. Passed a backpacker who expected to come out here. One deer on return. Alpine flora is out, but not full on yet.

June 26, 1974. Greyrock and Livermore Mtn. Country. Left 6.00 am. At the foot of Greyrock Mtn. about 8.30. There is a trail down to Greyrock Meadow, terminating in a cairn at a dead tree about as shown on map. Route out to n.e. in Sec. 25, tho shown as a jeep trail, is very old road, hardly discernable at points. But there is little trouble finding the route.

Arrived at ruin in s.w. corner sec. 19 about 10.00. Road down the creek s.e. and back into sec. 30 is very obscure. At drainage fork is old abandoned car, and I initially missed the road back up to Wintersteen Trail. Went on down the drainage quarter of mile or so, marking trail, a trifle uncertain where I was.

Returned and found road back up to Wintersteen Trail and hiked it up far enough to confirm it. This road is not as good as I remembered it, and my impression was that some 4WD had been in on it, but I do not now see how they got from ruin to abandoned car.

Returned and hiked the trail running to Long Draw. Formerly a road, and can be followed with



no trouble, but it is somewhat obscure. Cabins are as marked. Stopped at 1.00 at saddle beneath Livermore Mtn, with good view out to Livermore Forks.

Return was tough, but uneventful, returned via Wintersteen Trail. No problems. Carried 12 oz. cola, which was frozen, and delightful for lunch, canteen, and half gallon of water. Crossed water often, but stock had always been in it. Dry. Little wildlife, and flora so-so.

July 1974- July 1975 - Sabbatical year; Marblehead, Massachusetts, and Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions

Sept. 1974, just after Labor Day. Pack trip into lower Shenandoah National Park. Bad weather, cold and rained out. Lean-tos here have been closed and camping forbidden nearby. But in hard night's rain, I slept on table top in lean-to. Next day walked into Big Run, then out.

Sept. 14, 1974. 2 adult bald eagles at Hawk Mountain, Kempton, Pa. With Jennings Bunch. Also c. 50 broadwings, some sparrow hawks and Cooper's. Eagles seen clear and lovely.

visited Walden Pond, Concord, fall 1974, with leaf colors prime.

end 1974.

## 1975

July 1974 - July 1975. Sabbatical Year, Marblehead, Massachusetts, and Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions

May 1975. Several days in Vermont-New Hampshire with spring flora. Delightful, especially the trilliums. Several days in Cape Cod area, inc. National Seashore.

August 1, 1975. Crown Point with Giles. No problems and good road to where Browns Lake road turns off. Blocked to 4WD from here, though you could proceed onward on Crown Point Road, how far is unknown. Easy hike with Giles up to Crown Point, old jeep road runs just below summit, and on down into meadow, over another summit, then begins to drop into Browns Lake. We walked to where the drop off into the Lake begins. In Scout, coming over into Pingree Park, saw yearling coyote running along road. Got out to see him longer just below roadside. Re-checked a number of flowers from here and two new species.

August 9, 1975. Lake Agnes and Mt. Richthofen with Don Crosby and Suk Koo Lee. Snowshoe rabbit at Chambers Lake area. You can drive, even in sedan though with difficulty, easy for 4WD about halfway to Lake Agnes, to parking lot. Blocked to 4WD beyond, and new hiking trail cut in. About 45 minutes to lake. Beyond is scramble. Went right-side of lake going up, left side (with scree) coming back, and scree side is easier. Long rock scramble to saddle below Richthofen. In upper part, we went just at top line of talus in bedrock, but it was still loose and many bad areas. Descent was from middle of saddle over bedrock area supporting some talus at center in upper part, then skirting snow fields midway down, finally down in semi-forested area, with stream to lake edge. Descent seemed easier route than upward, and would clearly be better in lower part. In higher parts with more snow it would not work, nor is it always easy to see ahead and you could get into a route impasse. Talus is passable up to a certain point, but then gets so steep and loose it becomes difficult, even dangerous. Tough on feet also.

Beautiful day and lovely scenery. From the saddle Lead and Cirrus are visible beyond Tepee. Typical flora and wildlife.

July 23, 1975. Nymph and Dream Lake with Jane, Shonny, Giles.

Sept. 20. Hike to Chasm view with Pat McKee. Left Long's Peak Ranger station about 9.00. Easy and uneventful climb to Boulderfield. The scramble up to Chasm View was not bad until the last few hundred feet, with enough ice underfoot to make it queasy, especially toward top.

Went right up the middle, not off to the left as sometimes before. Also was getting fatigued by then. Cold at Chasm view, though the day was not noticeably cold on the way up. Clouded over on descent with spitting snow, but nice day. Two ptarmigan, very tame; below Granite Pass, perhaps 1/3 way down to trail junction with Chasm Lake. They were getting a good deal of white in their feathers. Watched them right at trailside only a few feet away, almost like chickens in a barnyard. There was water in the Boulderfield, though in many spots it was frozen up.

The trail up Long's Peak was open and we talked to one or two who had been up, said it was no problem until the upper part of the Homestretch, which was too icy for comfort. Ranger said it was touch and go but they were about to close out for the season. Passed perhaps ten parties out for the night and various climbs. Mostly staying in Jim's Grove, some in Boulderfield. Return about 5.00. Well worked out, but not hurting.

Flora degenerating but not really wiped out below with frost; pretty well killed above timberline, some still in flower in protected locations. Frost in Ft Collins, Sept. 18, 19, and 20. Tassel-eared squirrel.

Oct. 2. Bierstadt, Pool, Fern, Bear Lake circuit in aspen with Frank Vattano. Left Bierstadt parking lot 9.00 a.m. Absolutely gorgeous aspen up Bierstadt Moraine to top, under clearest blue sky ever. Much deer sign. Heard but did not see deer (or elk) at Bierstadt Lake. Easy trail, no aspen to Mill Creek Basin, and in this area gorgeous aspen again. One mile out to Halowell park, and 4 good campsites in here. Would make good aspen campsite, or short hike in. Modest climb in good aspen, then steep descent to Pool. Overlooks Cub Lake and this looks very good for water lilies. Good aspen lower part of this route.

Lunch at Pool. Up to Fern Falls, Fern Lake with modest aspen little beyond Fern Lake. But beautiful day and this is exquisite scenery. Delightful weather and, though clearly autumn, not a great deal of sign of severe cold in here. Some fresh snow now and again in shadows. Heard elk bugle three times in high area before descent to Bear Lake. Talked with two who had been up Matterhorn, and caught ride from Bear Lake back to Bierstadt Parking Lake with them. 12 miles. Out about 4.00 p.m.

Dec. 27, 1975. West White Pine Mtn Lookout Tower. Left 7.00 a.m. alone. The country has broken snow cover to Buckthorn, then increasing snow, but south sides bare. Much snow pack to Ranger Station, but road had been plowed and no problem. Had expected to snowshoe, but there was not enough snow and I stashed the shoes after half a mile, rest of day on foot. Pretty day, windy, ground blizzards on peaks visible from here. Apparently you can jeep to saddle in summer; road is chained there after. Jays, boomers, chickadee. Elk sign, one coyote sign. But little out. Would have used snowshoes, had I carried them in that far, from saddle to tower, but not too much trouble on foot. Easy return, after lunch at tower. Some rabbit sign.

Drove toward Paiwanic Pass, turning around just short of pass. Worsening road, but some were coming through, even sedans. Crystal Mountain Road and Old Ballad Road both open, looked iffy for 4WD, but had seen some recent traffic.

About 500 crows in field up from Masonville. Six miles. Monument Gulch Road was open, above Box Prairie and Ranger Station; try this sometime, on foot or 4WD. (There was no sign, as before, at West White Pine-East White Pine saddle showing Flowers Trail, but blazes seen.)

end 1975.

1976

Jan. 10, 1976. 6 Bald eagles at Empire Reservoir, near Riverside Reservoir, east of Greeley. With Giles, lunched at Riverside Reservoir, frozen solid over surface. No life here at all. Afterward went to Empire, and walked in a hundred yards or so from Route 34. Saw two large birds, and two in flight, the latter immatures. The other two out on the ice which I couldn't identify with binoculars.

Returned for scope, and one flew about the time I got back, an immature. The other was a fine adult, and stayed alight on the ices for half an hour. Though at considerable distance, there was no doubt about white head and white tail. Watched several other immatures in flight here. The white in the wing linings was very distinctive in these birds. There were hundreds of geese, also on the ice; and there may have been some broken water or open unfrozen areas at this distance; I couldn't tell; all that I could see seemed to be walking or sitting on ice,

One immature eagle perched in a tree for this half hour. Giles and I walked down the beach and flushed both the adult on ice and the immature in the tree. Total at least six, four were seen at one time. Only one adult.

Many other hawks during the day. In the light phase, the rough-leg is not too hard to tell, black tips, black wrists, black belly.

Jan. 15, 76. Skied up Pennock Creek toward Signal Mtn. with Don Crosby and Fred Johnson. Only got the Scout halfway between Lazy D Ranch and Pennock Pass load. Drift there, we might have made with chains, but decided to stop and walk in. Scout had already done some pretty good drifts. Pennock Pass road appeared open, and there was one truck in here, but no one went further than the drift that stopped us today. Pennock Creek trail up Signal Mtn easy to find, and no problems. Rather poor skiing, due to old snow and rocky.

But this would be nice trail in summer. Though the land is marked Private, it was not posted as such, and the Forest Service corner A is marked with two small signs visible from main road. Little wildlife in evidence. About 7 miles round trip.

Feb. 15, 76. Hike on ridge above Dixon Reservoir. Owl pellet. Keyed Virginia Creeper & a few others.

Feb. 17 - first crocus.

Feb, 21. Keyhole on Devil's Backbone. Walked in from below, but best access is up a road marked Green Mtn, and you can drive right to base. This is apparently Dakota formation, here a hefty conglomerate, with notable pebbles in it. Country back (east) of keyhole is bleak and uninhabited. Might make walk here sometime. Pheasant in snow roadside, also a very light, and nice rough-leg hawk soaring.

Feb. 25, 1976. To see Dan Zeluff in Estes Park. Drove to Bear Lake. Later, after leaving him, saw 25 deer, and 11 elk. Elk were on hillside above Horseshoe Park, seen from opposite and higher, but then later I saw them from below. Antlers seen on one elk only. One raven in campground.

Mar, 7 - walk below Horsetooth Reservoir, end of Horsetooth Road. Should be good area for summer birding. Pond and creek in here. What is the cocklebur-like plant, evident in winter in the flats here? Also cocklebur and burdock both in here.

Mar. 20. 7 bald eagles at Empire Reservoir. Left with Giles after breakfast. Stopped first at Riverside. Very windy and the lake was almost like an ocean, waves spraying over the dam. A few hawks in here; marsh hawk and rough-leg. Went in east end of Empire and had lunch; not too good access here, tho this would be interesting area to return to. Farm house is on lake visible from here and posted.

Drove south in poor road, to Interstate. Access here, and then returned up interstate, to exit marked Orchard Road. Dirt road goes north from here to bathing area right on lake. Marked Private, but very isolated and no one would bother you here in winter. One slightly bad spot on way in, but you would probably get winter access here.

Immature bald eagle seen in flight, walked down shore area with Giles, and saw beautiful adult close on return. Flying out over lake. Later saw four in air at one time when some disturbance raised them and hundreds of ducks. Two adults and two immatures (presumably including the preceding birds). Good observation from Scout out over lake is down a ways, near blue and white picnic and bathing platform.

Drove round to east access, in past a warehouse or storage barn, and short walk up to dam. Saw one adult light, hunted it up with scope and watched it half hour. Nice in scope, tho could not use high power, and it was too near looking into evening sun. This adult was joined once by an immature, and then later by a second adult. The two adults were watched quite a while.

This area they were in, with hundreds of ducks swimming below, was somewhat out of the wind, now also somewhat abated. Presumed count: 7 eagles, though it is possible that the last three duplicated the first four; I was not too sure about the lay of the shorelines in here.

Many great blue herons in here, have also a 6' wingspread, but wholly different profile.

Mar. 27. Skied and sledged with children in Rocky Mtn Park. 2 deer. No signs of spring in vegetation. Bluebirds and robins.

Mar. 31. One jonquil in backyard. Forsythia is pretty well out in town, not here. Corner violets doing well, crocus in yard is out. Some Blue Mustard and Cranesbill (Storksbill) in town. Alder catkins down and aspen catkins have been coming down a week or so.

Apr. 4, 76. Greyrock Trail stroll at lower end, after being turned away from Ft. Collins waterworks. Refused permission. Several hundred Pasqueflowers, a couple hundred yards in and off to the left. Mertensia, spring beauty, and one Microsteris. Thunder and a good rain in the night on Apr. 5.

Apr 10-24. Good forsythia, many tulips, pansies, violets, shrubs leafing out; many nice days, a few spells of unsettled weather and some snow flurries.

Apr. 24, 76. Cobb Lake area in early a.m. Many doves, several great blue herons, grackle, red wings, yellow-headed blackbirds. Ducks: pintail, gadwall, shoveller (not many), coots, mallards, many teal, including green-winged, blue-winged, and cinnamon, redheaded ducks, also pheasant, Western grebe. Drove to cattail area on Nunn Road first, and this was best area, full of activity. While watching ducks through scope, spotted coyote in field adjacent.

Marvelous scene; the coyote was loping along with a large rabbit in her (?) mouth, likely returning to a den. Possibly a jackrabbit. I watched half a minute, and in good sun and with good magnification. Then the coyote disappeared over an irrigation ditch.

Some activity at Cobb Lake lookout. Many avocets at shallow pond south (near Kimberligns). Rabbits and ground squirrels. Some hawks unidentified.

Apr. 26, 76. Elk in Horseshoe Park, RMNP. Very rainy and foggy day, poor visibility. 15 elk in 2-3 groups at reasonably close range, one was a bull. Scene thru the scope in falling snow was a nice one. 3 deer roadside. Thousands of Pasqueflowers out in Big Thompson Canyon below the Loveland waterworks in open areas between there and the Narrows.

Attended Session meeting at Community Church of the Rockies that night, and drove home in spitting snow. Following week was solid rain and cloud cover.

May 1, 76. Audubon's warbler in the yard.

May 14-15, first trip in Steury camper to Ft, Collins Mountain Park in Poudre Canyon. Lovely day Friday, but weather deteriorated Saturday and we returned in rain Sat. p.m. 2 deer way up on hillside at dusk thru scope. 6-8 wildflower species out, but still not much out at this elevation. Things well out, though in Greyrock area. Stroll on return up Young's Gulch (at Ansel Watrous Campground). This is good wet area; explore this trail sometime. With Shonny, Giles, and Jane.

May 19. Crosier Mtn. Alone. From Glen Haven start behind stables, go short distance on dirt road, and cut up on washed out jeep road, at Trail sign. Work up where many trails criss-cross to break out with Crosier and other mountains in view. Sign is here, Crosier Mtn. 2 miles. Drop down to campsite and then climb beside gully, soon reaching Piper Meadows. Follow trail on n. e. side, and then enter switchbacks. Arrive at ridge with gate. Soon afterward pass ruined cabin, and then is an uneventful stretch through doghair pine and D-fir stands. Join trail from North Fork at Crosier Mtn .5 mile sign. Ascend steadily to summit.

A dry trail, and not much out. Much Pasqueflower and Candy tuft below. Bluebells, Androsace, Saxifrage. Birds fairly active. Sprinkle of rain approaching summit, but then it cleared and was very pleasant for lunch on summit. Extraordinary view of Rocky Mtn. Park area. Ypsilon, 274°. Fairchild 280°, Mummy 285°, Dunraven.

The gorge, above timberline, between Mummy and Dunraven is most notable, Stormy Peaks area 304°, S. Signal Mtn, 320°. Signal, 322°. Flushed four cow elk at watering hole at high end of Piper Meadows on return. Nice view of them.

July 15-18. Medicine Bow area with Shonny, Giles, Jane in camper. Camped at Libby Fork just inside the N.F. There are four units here, only the Spruce Unit where we were has a fee, water, and trash pickup. One is picnic unit with water. Others look o.k. without water and trash carryout. The Nash Creek campground, opposite Mountain Meadows looks good for alpine area. The Sugarloaf area (at the top, below Medicine Bow peak) had not thawed out for entrance. Hiked in there for lunch one day. One deer, snowshoe rabbit - good view in woods - several antelope enroute.

July 29-Aug. 1, 76. Dinosaur National Monument with Shonny, Giles, David Hampton, and Jane. First night in camper at Walton Greek Campground just west of Rabbit Ears Pass. Fri & Saturday nights at Dinosaur, Green River Campground. Friday afternoon drive out to Harper's Corner and looked down into Whirlpool Canyon. Spent Saturday in the fossil area, after a ranger walk in the morning, mid-day at the fossil visitor center, and the afternoon on a shuttlebus tour of Indian petroglyphs and an old ranch. Returned to Fort Collins Sunday. 25 antelope in a herd at roadside. One nice immature golden eagle at Harper's corner and many other hawks enroute.

Returned to Laramie to find that Route 287 was washed out, and had to go to Cheyenne and thence to Fort Collins. This was the first we heard of the Big Thompson flood.

July 31-August 1, Saturday night and Sunday. Big Thompson flood. Washed out Highway 34 up the canyon, destroyed many cabins and campers, 87 or more persons perished. 12 foot wall of water roars down canyon. Lesser flooding in Poudre.

Aug 7. With David, went into Eden Valley to overlook the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon. Saw bridge out and road destroyed at the crossing here in Eden Valley (west of Masonville). Canyon is blocked by police. Rattlesnake live at roadside in Horsetooth area, killed and we took the rattles. Pretty good size.

Aug. 8. Scout into Seven-Mile Creek above Rustic, with David Hampton and Giles. Nice mine shaft in here. Poudre flooding was mainly below the tunnel, and not noticeable above. Most of the small bridges out below the tunnel

Aug. 20-22. Olive Ridge Campground near Allenspark, with Shonny, Giles, Jane, in camper. Nice weekend. 2 deer in opening above campground. Perhaps a half dozen Abert's squirrels, all dark. Williamson's sapsucker. Stellar's jays and Clark's nutcrackers. Hiked to Ouzel falls in Wild Basin, and on way out at Ranger Station (below it 1 mile or so, ) I took the trail over the moraine back to camp.

Steady climb on good graded trail, almost without any turn to the top, then less steady descent on less well graded trail, mostly thru aspen woods. Come to junction with signs, and I took route out through Meadow Mountain Ranch (Girl Scout Ranch and private property). Pass giant Ponderosa pine, and one or two other trails; come to large open meadow, and 4WD track, and thence to Scout Camp, and on down, cutting up over ridge to Olive Ridge Campground. Where does the Allenspark trail, from junction above, come out in Allenspark? Circle route could be made here via Calypso Cascades. Coyotes heard one night.

Oct. 2. Mt. Audubon with Pat McKee. Nice day, aspen very good on drive in. Brainerd Lake on up was cool, had had some snow, but very clear and pleasant. Hike up pretty much as before, last scramble up the rocks had considerable snow. Lovely view on top, especially nice for the relatively light snow cover over all the peaks on the panorama.

Oct. 16. Cherokee Park-Haystack Gulch area in Scout with Giles. Nice fall day. Turned off on the narrow road, still county maintenance, between the Cherokee Game units. Nice Golden Eagle soaring. Coyote scampering across fields, seen in binoculars. Stopped at trailer house and asked permission to continue. Road needs 4WD past here. 5 deer close to road. There are two houses in here, one inhabited, and one further up now not inhabited but has power line in and is in good repair. Maybe inhabited in summer. Cattle still in fields. Through 2 gates, not locked. Stopped for lunch at old quarry processing area, 2-3 machines left. Walked up to Sloan's quarry. Uneventful return.

The lip below Prairie Divide is notable from here.

Oct. 24, 76. Moderated congregational meeting at Estes Park, and then drove up Trail Ridge Road. Very wintry on top, though not a lot of accumulated snow. With Giles. U.S. 34 is still out, and the trips to Estes are via Lyons.

Nov. 7. Hike up Estes Cone, Sunday p.m. after preaching at Estes Park Church. Long's Peak Trail for a while, then trail branches off to Eugenia Mine. Cabin here and ruined shaft, old boiler. Descend thru Moore Park to reach Storm Pass Trail. Ascend, passing some marked water supply, to Storm Pass. Ascend more sharply on cairn marked trail to Estes Cone. Perhaps 3 miles, 6 miles round trip.

Perfect day, though the hike pressed me for time. On trail about 1.30, returned 4.30, 3 hours round trip. But it is dark now by 5 or soon after. South sides of hills were fairly snow free, but other exposures have a steady crunch of snow underfoot. CSU students had stalled on return from Twin Sisters trail, and I winched them out of a driveway with the Scout.

Eugenia Mine was worked about 1905. Estes Cone seems entirely granitic, an erosion remnant, and no suggestion of volcanic activity. Drove back in the dark on U.S. 34, newly opened, still much dirt & rough.

Nov. 14. Lunch in the snow in Horseshoe Park, after preaching at Estes Church. Mild fall, with only, one snow, and moderate temperatures.

Trail Ridge Road is open through Thanksgiving Day, then closed. The longest the road has ever stayed open, since its beginning in 1932, was in 1933, when it did not close until Dec. 2. The average closure over the last ten years has been Oct. 25. Thanksgiving Day was Nov. 25, so it closed a month late this year.

Dec. 18, 76. Pole Hill Road with Giles. Drove south from Loveland, and prowled a while in Flatiron Reservoir camp area. Goldeneye ducks on lake, and mergansers. Drove the Pole Hill Road, until forced to turn around by private road. Lunched at Rattlesnake Reservoir picnic/camp area. Flatiron is passable camp for spring, when mountain camps are not yet open. Rattlesnake is weak camp area. Prowled around lake. Townsend's solitaire. Duck with broken wing was in below dam, and excited Giles. Return via Carter Lake. Carter Lake is the Loveland equivalent of Horsetooth, and not very exciting, an ugly drawdown lake.



end 1976.

1977

January 9, 1977. Bald eagles at Empire Reservoir. Stopped in on return from Akron, on a very cold day with solid snow cover. Reservoir frozen solid. Four mature bald eagles on the point seen from the east end of the reservoir, and one immature. Seen both perched and in air, mostly perched. All of them very clearly identified. Later, around on the main highway, one more seen, an eagle but unidentified as to mature or immature. Coyote near Brush. Pheasants.

January 23, 1977. Again, six bald eagles at Empire Reservoir, returning from Akron. These were perhaps the same birds as seen January 9. Four adults seen perched, under very ideal conditions. Weather was fair, sunshine clear, and wind calm. Two adults in scope field at once. Also one immature in field with one adult at once. Later, one adult seen from the main highway, first perched, and then flying. Pheasants, and several other hawks.

January 30, 1977. No eagles at Empire Reservoir.

January 1977. Mountain lion attacks a young boy snowshoeing near Rye, Colo., below Canon City. The boy escaped after stabbing the lioness; the lioness was later found and killed, and found to be blind in one eye; and perhaps did not know what she had attacked. There are estimated to be 1,200 mountain lions in the state, possibly 2,000, one of the healthiest mountain lion populations in the country, and increasing substantially in the last decade. Another mountain lion in a nearby town seized a poodle and carried it up a tree, and was preparing to eat it when shot.

Feb. 6, 1977. With Giles, the Fort Collins arboretum (so called) north of town, at the Poudre River. Not much to show here. Best access from Martinez Park. Found Fuligo septica, a myxomycete, with large aethalium on cottonwood log. White crusted with lime, dark black spore mass inside.

Feb. 12. Up Young Gulch, above Ansel Watrous Campground. With Shonny and Giles.

Feb. 20. Alone, up an unnamed draw just north of Fossil Creek, and south of the Horsetooth Road. Back to two stock tanks in here, with small spring - spout spring. Coyote tracks and deer tracks in here. Keyed Indigobush, Amorpha fruticosa, in winter condition.

Feb. 26-27. Twenty bald eagles at Empire reservoir. Drove out Saturday and went into Riverside. Nothing, except one large red tail in very close in the cottonwoods at the dam. Enormous flocks of redwings feeding on some spilled corn on the dirt road in. At Empire, the

land where I have been sighting the eagles has been identified by sign as state land. Nine eagles on Saturday, all perched, though several flew in low and - about while I was there, 2 adults and two immatures, one of the immatures was much blotched with white. Then drove on to Eckley, where I spent the night with Larry Gardners, preached at Eckley and Wray on Sunday.

On return, there were many eagles perched. Counted nineteen in one sweep of the scope, ten adults and nine immatures. Then back on the main road, I saw one soaring at other end of reservoir, almost surely another individual. Weather was nice and observing conditions good. One adult, in particular, sat on the northernmost snag on the island-peninsula that they frequent, and was an exquisite sight on the snag and against the wintry sky. Chickadees and white crowned sparrows, one pheasant.

Several skunks dead roadside. I saw one in town alive, prowling the roadside at dusk last week.

March 5, 1977. Sheep Creek and Moody Hill Trail in lower Buckhorn, with Shonny and Giles. Up over Rist Canyon, and thence via Stove Prairie Road to lower Buckhorn. The signs I remembered in here have been washed out or are otherwise gone. Hiked up the lower mile and a half or so of the Moody Hill (Sheep Creek) Trail. A Jeep Wagoneer was stuck wildly up the hill, and on return 3 CSU students were getting it out with a come-along. He had lost his brakes, presumed he snagged a brake line. This road is not so bad as a whole, but 3-4 skittish places in it, as far as we went. Hiked on up, lunched, and went some more, uneventful return.

Gathered some mosses and the children played with delight on the frozen creek surface. This is excellent moss area. There are 1-2 camper sites at the creek, and a makeshift trail up the creek itself quite a ways. One or two tent sits upstream too. Would be nice with Giles, maybe with family) in early spring - May, when it is too soon to go higher.

Raccoon prowling roadside on return from Estes.

March 19, 1977. Hike alone up Horsetooth. Parked below the crest of the highway and went up draw to avoid posted sign. But signs here only say No Hunting, and seems a semi-public route. Gain a 4WD road in a half mile of climb, and follow this, through some zig zags, into forest, and on into area of Horsetooth proper. The road is first good, then becomes weaker as it ascends a hill, then joins a rather better road, that swings round north in descent. Explore this sometime.

This road in ascent very soon crosses a fence, and not long after that you must leave it, following instead a good track (not a road) that makes its way toward the Horsetooth, with a good view of them. But this track soon becomes fainter and scattered, (I left cairns for return). Make your way round to the west, to a sort of west, or northwest vantage point at the base of the teeth. Then pick a route up, noting it for return with care, this is a rock scramble.

Many Easter Daisies (Townsendia Exscapa) in flower on the lower flanks of the mountain. Several bluebirds. Many pigeons about the summit, and a few ravens. Some deer sign, and one ground squirrel was out.

March 25, 1977. Friday. Scout drive with Giles to Eaton Reservoir and Sand Creek Pass area. Road was clear for sedans to about Trout Creek (2-3 miles below reservoir), and then a sign road closed. Proceeded for about a mile and a half of intermittent drifts, the Scout taking some

that I did not think it would, until we were eventually stopped about a mile below the reservoir in an open area, where the road had drifted with snow. With difficulty this might have been passed, and a flat area above that bypassed in the sagebrush to the north of the main roadbed, which was thoroughly filled with snow. I had thought I might make the Tie Siding Road.

Nice golden eagle just as we were rounding one bend, so large on the side of the road that I first thought it was a coyote. A second golden eagle later, soaring. Nice red tail. Dozens of bluebirds. Collected a number of mosses from the area at the junction of the Prairie Divide and Cherokee Park roads. Prairie Divide road marked closed. Hiked with Giles a little ways up the Trout Creek area, but the snow was too much for him to manage. With 4WD access, this might make a good summer camp in here. Not posted and no fences. Some cattle in here, even in winter.

April 2, 1977. Pasqueflowers on lower Greyrock Trail. This trail was really torn up in the flood.

May 6, 77. Young's Gulch from Ansel Watrous Campground to Stratton Park. Excellent day. Jeep road continues up the Gulch for some while at streamside, then swings sharp left and up a hill and shortly peters out; lesser road, soon a footpath, continues upstream. The stream then makes a rather sharp right, then left (see map) in an area that can be noticed. Shortly after a footpath leads up a hill, but the main trail continues upstream. The divide in the fork between Stove Prairie and Stratton Park forks is right at trailside, and the main trail goes out to Stove Prairie - try this sometime. Barely a footpath continues up the fork to Stratton Park, little trouble to follow as the stream is so close, but often faint trail. Come out at Crickett cabin with pond, and see map for the other details out to main Rist Canyon Road.

Blue grouse at close range. I have not seen these much. Pair of red tails; the usual spring birds. Flora pretty well out. Found a liverwort: Contocephalum. Large hillsides at streamside are covered with Hypnum.

May 13 77. Skyline Drive in Shenandoah N. P., with mother and daddy, & Giles. Some dogwood still in bloom. Trilliums. Lovely day, cool and windy. The higher elevations seem to have been cut back with a late freeze.

May 14. Hike alone up Horsehead. Via Rt. 614 to gate, and into the Shenandoah N. P. Up Paine Run shortly and thence up Trayfoot Mtn. trail to firetower, which was being dismantled. Yellow blazed, good trail but not maintained with the care of the main trails. Road to Black Rock Gap, and descend on Paine Run Road (Old Black Rock Road), lunched at Black Rock Springs, now defunct, formerly a lodge and medicinal springs here. Laurel was majestic on lower reaches, not yet out in upper parts. Azalea good all over. Good spring flowers.

May 15, Sunday. Drove up Reddish Knob, after picnic lunch in NF recreation area below, with Daddy, Mother, Aunt Frances, Aunt Jacqueline, and Giles. Top of knob is almost in winter condition, trees little out, seem to have been cut back in late freeze.

May 16, Monday. Sawmill Run, with Giles. Up road which begins on Sawmill Run, in Shenandoah NP, and then runs 1/4 mile or so south of it, toward Sawmill Ridge overlook. Later, returned and went along a road beginning similarly and going directly east streamside along a s. fork of Sawmill Run, and almost on the park boundary. Returned for lunch in Waynesboro. That afternoon hiked into Sawmill Run shelter. Good spring flora throughout.

May 25, 77. Around lake on Reed place in Goochland County, near Hebron Church, in

drenching rain. Many geese on lake. I am embarrassed at how many of the trees and shrubs I have forgotten, e.g. persimmon.

June 1, 77. Hike up The Priest on Appalachian Trail. Trail leaves from road up The River, above Mashies Mill. Couldn't make much sense of trail from old Trail Guide on lower part, though followed it as blazed without trouble. It had been raining and woods were very wet, though it began to clear about half way up. From halfway up, the trail is as described. Rounded summit, without view, but fine view from rocks 1/4 mile south. Went on to Priest Shelter. Clouds were breaking up, as I lunched at the view from the rocks on return. Fine Bell Lily (probably Lilium Grayi) en route. Xerophyllum, Turkey-beard, was notable here. This is a steady climb of about 3,000 ft, summit is a little over 4,000 ft. Purple Rhododendron was especially nice on top. Laurel is past, as are trillium, of which there are many toward the top.

June 7-11. Trip into Colorado State Forest on west side of Rawah. Left early a.m. and went via Gould to N. Michigan Reservoir. Then up 4WD road toward Jewel Lake (also Ruby Jewel Lake). No problems, but decided to stop at a sawmill site nearing the top, and I would not have made it much further for the drifts in the road. Road soon reaches a trailhead. Packed into Jewel Lake with some difficulty, following trail and getting across the stream (S. Fork Canadian River), much snow and heavy runoff. Followed red ribbons for a ways, but these do not suffice for the whole way, though they are o.k. in the upper part. Jewel Lake was frozen and decided to return to the Scout to camp. A coyote was prowling on the snow, seen for quite a while on the climb up toward the lake, seemed to move quite easily over the snow. I would not have seen him except he was a dark animal figure moving over the solid white snow, tail held low as he ran.

June 8-9. Went down the road toward Kelly and Clear Lakes, after a morning stroll up a logging road and collecting some mosses. Road was easy on the way in but turned to mud during the night. Stopped by too deep a ford at the North Fork of the Canadian River, and camped there. Many birds in the willow thickets. Much sign of porcupine eating the bark off the pine trees. Slept in the Scout in the rain. Road was quite muddy on the return for practically its whole length, especially the southern part. Parked Scout at the Montgomery Pass road sign, and packed up the Beckman Trail (for 4WD) over to Colorado 14. Road is red diamond blazed for snowmobiles in winter. Had to wade one of the creeks, as they were all high and bridges often out. But this should not be bad for 4WD if dry, and I could probably have made it even now; did not seem to be so muddy as the road earlier in the day. Left pack at the top, and hiked on down to see how it came out on Colorado 14. Spent night at the top.

June 10. Returned to Scout, left pack, and hiked up Montgomery Pass Road. Spent the day disoriented because it turns out that the present road is not at all the road shown on the topo map (this had led to some confusion the day before on the location of the Preachers Cabins). So in the upper reaches I was confused, and the whole thing turns into a morass of lumber roads. I hiked out several trying to make them go to Montgomery Pass, though they often seemed to want to lead toward the saddle between Chickadee and wallow Peaks. Too much snow made this difficult also, so I gave it up. Returned and drove the Scout to Cameron Pass and spent the night.

June 11. Hiked up Montgomery Pass from the west. Road is discernable, but never was much, and in the snow was sometimes hard to follow. Reached the pass o.k., but it turns out that the road from the west comes up seaside a west side of Swallow Peak, and then comes down the divide to the Pass. So I walked this out to the part where I was confused the day before and found it without too much trouble, though there was much snow. I think this could be confusing

even in good conditions, though. But the road should be driveable in dry weather in later summer, up from the west. This area has been heavily logged on the west side and is in some respects not too attractive for this reason, though the tundra is in good shape.

Used the Svea-Optimus stove for the first time on this trip. Found porcupine skeleton and brought home the jawbone. Flora was notably yellow: dog's tooth violets in great profusion; buttercups, parsleys.

June 15-18. Poudre Canyon to Milner Pass (Trail Ridge Road) via Big South Trail. Left early Wednesday, and hiked from Poudre Canyon Highway 14 to the bridge below Peterson Lake, and return, 18 miles. This is an excellent graded trail near the river side, and one of the best trails in the area. Many good campsites en route. There are three main tributary crossings. The first May Creek, all with good campsites. Returned and drove to Peterson Lake, after a drive to La Poudre Pass in hopes of finding a ranger to get a National Park backcountry permit (failed, but I went anyway). Night at Peterson Lake. There is no provision for camping here, and the lake is a mess from rebuilding, trailhead difficult to locate. Slept in Scout. Deer at lakeside.

June 16, Thursday. From Peterson Lake to campsite at mouth of Chapin Creek. An easier day than I had expected, though the trail takes a curious detour back up the hill from the river, and through a logged area, which left me initially confused. See detail on map. Deer in logged area. Uneventful day through the La Poudre Pass Creek area (this is really a bigger stream than the Poudre itself at least in runoff) and reached campsite about 2.00. Chapin Creek is at least as big as the Poudre here.

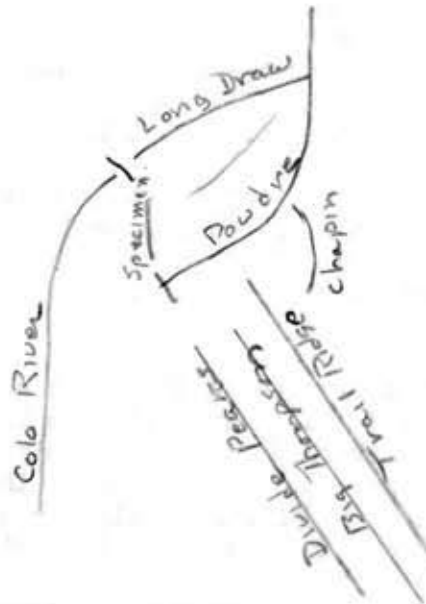
By evening 9 elk had come out of the woods, and 6 deer, four of the deer so tame that they came into campsite and I had to shoo them away, with little success. They seemed very curious, more curious than scared, and I was afraid they would disturb the camp. Awaked in the night with some rodent gnawing at my hat.

June 17, Friday. On to Milner Pass. The trail is poorer here, sometimes only a route; though sometimes a trail. Often lost it in the willows; in general keep as near the timber edge as you can. 6 more deer several miles up, and about 8 elk, mostly across the river some distance away. But I sprang one cow very near, and she bounced out into the willows with a notable alarm call. Reached the pass about 11.00; and returned to the campsite (where I picked up the cached pack) and returned to mouth of La Poudre Pass Creek for the night. Good campsite here, on the boundary of the Park. La Poudre Pass Creek is quite a stream.

June 18, Saturday, Hiked out, several more deer. One redtail. The one-way mileage, Poudre Canyon to Milner Pass must be nearly 30 miles, round trip 60 miles.

Explore the Mummy Range - Flowers Trail, Zimmerman Trail between this country and Crown Point.

Also there seems to be a good trip up the Roaring Fork, from Kinnikinnik. The Zimmerman trail comes out at the old Home site; a house here now, and there is a bridge across the river, but it is posted.



Long Draw seems really some sort of geologic extension of the Colorado River Drainage (Kawuneeche Valley) as it sweeps right around in the same arc - the Lulu City Trail. The Poudre drainage in the upper part is parallel to it, and of similar proportions and arcs around symmetrically with it, with the Poudre going north, the Colorado south. In this sense La Poudre Pass Creek is the analog to the upper stretches of the Colorado River.

June 21-24, 1977. Climbs up Mt. Elbert and Mt. Massive, Leadville area.

Tuesday, left and drove to Leadville, via Eisenhower Tunnel, and I-70. Dirt road to Half Moon Campground, and drove on a mile or more further to the Trailhead, clearly marked. Camped a little beyond here in the Scout, near some pitched tents, which nobody attended the whole time I was there.

A beaver in the pond-stream was active in the night, and later seen a number of times while there. Much given to slapping his tail in the water, a notable sound at night.

Wednesday, hiked up Mt. Elbert. Good trail, but I was soon led astray by its not being marked. Well-worn trail leads up a nearer, cutoff but much steeper route, up a nearer ridge. Upwards this becomes mostly a route, sometimes hand over fist, though nothing technical. Reached summit about noon, very good day. Returned by the longer and usual route, which goes down an easier ridge toward Hamilton Creek, and then joins the Main Ridge Trail (which runs some great distance through here). But this route is a long one. It is 5 miles from the junction of the Mt. Elbert Trail with the Main Ridge Trail to the road-trailhead, and must be nearly 3 up Mt. Elbert. Returned about 5.00. Mt. Elbert is highest in Colorado, 2nd highest in nation, at 14,433. Half Moon Campground is 9,900, and the trailhead somewhat higher, but the elevation gained on the hike is about 4,500. The elevation gained on the Long's Peak Climb is 4,865. However on the Mt. Elbert hike you gain and lose elevation several times. The hike is a walkup, but strenuous for the 16 miles and the high elevation, and would be exhausting if not in shape.

Thursday, hiked up Mt. Massive. Mt. Massive has seven peaks or summits, the highest 14,421. Trail goes up the Main Ridge Trail 4 miles, then at a marked sign, cuts west for the climb, another 4 miles, about a mile in timber, and about 3 above timberline. Again, a strenuous climb. Good trail soon becomes a route, marked with cairns, colored with aging orange paint. Had some trouble finding the cairns, as I was unsure which route was being taken, or whether the cairns were reliable. After coming well up into a ridge that is rather flat and broad, the route swings across a hollow and climbs first to a far ridge, and then goes up that ridge. Had to cross snow only twice - no problem. Crossed no snow on the Mt. Elbert Trail.

Weather threatened several times, and I was sometimes doubtful of whether I would make the summit, but it faired up while I was on top, and ate lunch. Lovely views from both summits - a sea of snow dotted peaks. Returned and was not down too long, 45 minutes, before the summit clouded over. Uneventful return, in some rain.

Friday, visited mines in the Leadville area, including the shack and mine - Matchless Mine - operated by H. A. W. Tabor and Baby Doe Tabor. Drove up Jonny Hill, which goes up above timberline in the Mosquito Range and passes a dozen or more mines, all now defunct. Ate lunch at the Ibex Mine, operated by "Leadville Jonny" Brown of Unsinkable Molly Brown fame. Stopped at Climax Molybdenum Mine. Mount of the Holy Cross is visible from the tailings pond, though not the cross - a rugged looking mountain.

Car burned now far north of here and I was delayed. Returned and saw 2 female bighorn sheep, or young males, roadside of I-70, quite close to the road.

July 14-16, 1977. 3-day camper trip to Pole Mountain and Vedawoo Rocks area. Camped at Yellow Pine Campground, nicest of 4 campgrounds all close together - Upper Tie City, Lower Tie City, Yellow Pine and Pole Creek Campground. Only one other party in the campground Thursday, and only a handful Friday night, none during the day Friday. Drive to Vedawoo Rocks picnic area (a small campground is there) on Friday for lunch and hiked around there, driving up the Happy Jack Road and back on the interstate.

Area was first used by Union Pacific RR for ties and the gangplank effect, and one of the first telephones in the West was laid up Telephone Canyon (where the Interstate is climbing up from Laramie). Area was formerly a military installation. Hawk at beaver ponds.

July 29, 30, 31. Camping at Glacier Gorge in Rocky Mtn National Park. In camper with family. First night good rain. Coyote calling in camp in the night, rather close. Saturday, drove Trail Ridge leisurely and went to Holzworth Ranch on other side. Sunday, came out early to preach at Milliken. Campgrounds crowded.

Aug. 6, Saturday. Hike to north end of Mummy Range with Steve Gies and Tim Bartley. Left about 7.00, at Peterson Lake at 9.00. Good rains the day before, but there was no problem to Peterson Lake, tho one slick spot.

Took trail, on far side of lake down to the river, crossed on footbridge of Big South-Trail, and shortly down-river picked up the Mummy Range Trail. These trails have been cleared since I was in here earlier in the summer. Ascended on Mummy Range Trail, uneventfully. Clear and lovely day, after clearing from rain the day before. Nearing timberline the trail arrives at a junction not shown on topo maps, with sign Big South Fork 3 - seems to go down to the Big South (try this sometime).



Main trail continues to timberline, marked Flowers Trail, just about timberline, arrive at junction, marked, with Mirror Lake Trail. We continued on Flowers trail to Zimmerman Trail junction. Good, high stone cairns, which had just been repaired, and there seem to be signs at the crucial spots thru here. Lunched at the Zimmerman fork, then climbed to an unnamed summit (11,859) on topo sheet, and descended. Not great deal of wildlife sign, some elk. Flora is sorta past, though Campulas were splendid above timberline.

Steve Gies saw a mountain lion a couple years back in Seaman Reservoir area, the last draw or canyon before you get to where the reservoir narrows to the North Fork. (This must have been the two draws, one of them, headed east in sections 28, 27 on topo sheet. (And not a great distance from where I saw the bobcat).

August 10-17, 1977. Trip to Yellowstone in Camper. Left Wednesday, 6.00 a.m., about daylight. Uneventful drive to Rawlins. Good rest area is at Fort Steele, before Rawlins. Several campgrounds thru here. Lunched at Split Rock, former Pony Express Station, named for a prominent mountain landmark. Buffalo Bill rode through here, riding 300+ miles in one day. Nice picnic area. 37 antelope. Drove on that afternoon to Dubois, and to Falls Campground, 23 miles n.w. of Dubois on Route 287. A falls is here, adjacent to campground. Good and big campground, with plenty of space; did not fill; maybe 2/3 full by dark. Rain in the night.

Thursday. Good getaway, left by ten of 7.00 a.m., and drove up Togwatee Pass, not a lot of climb from here, but would be more of a climb out of Jackson Hole. Lovely clouds, hanging low on the mountains, clearing after rain. Drive into Yellowstone, and found campsite in Grant Village Campground, about 9.30. Several campsites available, but filled up by 11.00 or 12.00. Ate a good dinner-lunch, and went off to Old Faithful area, where we spent the afternoon. Saw Old Faithful go off several times and walked down to Morning Glory Pool. Riverside Geyser was finishing an eruption. Picnic supper in an area returning to Grant, about where Lone Star Geyser Trail is. Cold night, with frost thoroughly covering the car the next morning.

Friday. To Madison and Norris. First to Biscuit Basin, Sapphire Pool is especially lovely here. Then Midway Geyser Basin. Picnic lunch in area just off main road on Firehole River road. Nice area, and midway through lunch we discovered an elk lying in the grass in the river; later she got up and walked around. Drove to Madison, and museum. Drove to Norris Geyser Basin, and walked the loop by Little Whirligig Geyser, nice area. Also walked out to Steamboat Geyser; returned and had picnic supper in same area as we had lunch. 8-10 elk here; one picture of bull elk lying down.

Saturday. Fishing Bridge. Lunched at Sand Point Picnic area - on, or above the Yellowstone Lake, and after lunch walked down to the lake, with the children wading in the water. Gnats bothered Jane and the children at lunch. Went to Fishing Bridge, looked up Cabin 23, where we had stayed with Shonny several years before, and then to museum and visitor center there. Drove out to Pelican Creek, and saw two moose, one at a distance, and one you could walk out close too. Picture of Shonny with moose beyond. Drove up Hayden Valley a little way. One buffalo, and moose. Drove back to camper for supper.

Sunday. Canyon and Tower Falls. Drove to Canyon, lunched in the campground, after a look in at the south rim, Artist's Point. After lunch, drove the north rim, Inspiration Point, and then walked to Lookout Point, and then walked some distance down to the Brink of the Lower Falls. Pictures here. Returned to car, and drove to Tower Falls; this is a high road, up, over, and down to Tower Falls. 3 moose on mountain side; children slept most of the way, and did not wake at the Falls. Returned and had picnic supper at area just north of Canyon, about where

the Cascade Lake Trail is. After supper drove through Hayden Valley, good wildlife. 2 pelicans on the river; moose, 2 buffalo, elk. Just south of Fishing Bridge a very large bull elk was at the roadside; lovely view out car window, about twilight; too dark for pictures.

Monday. Grand Tetons. Stopped first at Colter Bay area; picnic lunch at lakeside here. Lake is low. Drove on to Jenny Lake area, and took boat ride over and back across the lake, hiking about half a mile to Hidden Falls on the other side. Did the Grant Village Visitor center that morning. Returned to camper for supper.

Tuesday. Left Yellowstone for Cody and Thermopolis. Reached Cody about 11.00 and went to Buffalo Bill Museum and Museum of Western Art there. Road out is a slow one, especially in Yellowstone, faster in Shoshone Canyon. The Russell collection in the Museum is especially good; many Remington's, lots of them unfinished. A few Bierstadts. Bierstadt's paintings were worth much in his own lifetime. Russell traded his off for a meal or a night's lodging. Lunch in the town park, and on to Thermopolis. Mangy but free State Park Campground, and took a swim in a private pool, with hot pool area. Supper in the camper, and milkshake after supper, and walked around Big Spring. Herd of Buffalo is here.

Wednesday. Returned to Fort Collins. Wildlife counts: 2 buffalo, with a herd of 24 in Thermopolis. 19 elk, lots of bulls; 12 moose; 4 deer, one fawn; 55 antelope; 2 pelicans. But no bear. One bear had torn into the storage area in the back of a motor home of a man we talked too at Sand Point Picnic area. Lots of geese and ducks. One muskrat.

Falls Campground seems as good a way as any to go in and beat the crowds. It could also be used after a day in the Tetons on return. Another possibility would be to get a camping reservation at Flagg Ranch, or Huckleberry Hot Spring areas between the parks (John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway) and then go on into the park the next morning. There is a KOA not far from Moran Junction. By moving early in the day; you can move around within the park.

Middle and South Teton are walkups, but only from midsummer on, safer in August. Grand is a technical climb. Upper and Lower Wind River Campgrounds, s. of Thermopolis are much better than anything in town.

Sept. 22-23, 1977. Aspen trip to RMNP. Went up Friday afternoon in camper, very windy; camped in Moraine Park somewhat out of the wind, and spent a very good night. Water in taps seemed clear enough when drawing it, but turned brown on heating, and had to go elsewhere in campground to get water. Saturday, strolled around Bierstadt Moraine in aspen, and lunched below here at a picnic table near the creek. Tried the elk that evening to no avail, owing to wind and too many people and traffic. Sunday, hiked up to the Pool, nice hike, lovely colors. But the aspen, while good are not great.

Red crossbills in camp; also bluebirds; a very tame rabbit on the trail to the Pool. Glacier Gorge campground usually closes weekend after Labor Day; it is packed right up to Labor Day, and the weekend after; though idle much of the week after Labor Day. Moraine Park usually closes 3rd weekend in September, or just after it. It had snowed some in Moraine Park the morning before we came, but did not stick. Plenty of space in Moraine Park this weekend, about half full.

Raccoon at roadside returning from Estes at night, Sept. 25, Tuesday.

Chris Cable (neighbor) saw a mountain lion on the Long Draw Roadside, late August, returning

from a bow hunt. Below Corral Park on the lower part of the road.

No frost in September, and no clear frost by Oct. 9, though it has pushed frost a number of times, and clipped a pumpkin; and things are pretty well dying back anyway.

Oct. 16, 77. Hike to Mill Creek Basin, from Hallowell Park, after aborted Specimen Mtn. hike with Jennings Bunch. Left about 7.00. Coyote upon entering the park in Horseshoe Park, running across the open area, disappearing in the willows of the creek, nice view. 6-8 elk bugling calls. Drove over Trail Ridge Road, lovely drive, but there was increasing snow westward, and by the time we reached the Specimen Mtn. trailhead, there was pretty solid snow cover. Jennings was not prepared with shoes for this sort of hike, so we turned back.

Drove to Hallowell Park and walked up to Mill Creek Basin; no snow at all here, a few traces from a snow last Monday. Warm and pleasant. Beaver have cut some very large aspen in here, but not recently.

Returning through Moraine Park, from car, spotted coyote nearby, and watched him some 40 minutes through binoculars and spotting scope. He was hunting in the meadow, and did not for a while seem to mind being watched. Crouched and pounced several times; once with a great leap, his own length and more, came up with a ground squirrel, which he gulped down in 3-4 gulps, the entire animal consumed, and not really much chewed up in the process. A memorable sight. This coyote seemed quite fat, compared to others I have seen. He gradually seemed to shy back and move over toward the cabins west of the park. But the earlier part of this was in plain view, filling the field of view of the scope. Later pounces seemed to produce nothing, although he may have been eating grasshoppers or insects.

Oct. 23. Hike behind Howard Haise Cabin. Originally scheduled to carry a battery operated TV set up to see if you could get Denver stations. But others had tried this. Hiked it anyway. There is a considerable valley behind, of Sheep Creek (not the other Sheep Creeks in Buckhorn, Zimmerman trail, etc.)

Shirtsleeve weather on the way up, wore sweater on the way down. 2 rabbits; much deer sign. Deer had been snagged in the fence on the Poudre Canyon road on the way up, died, and was being eaten by a raven. Many Stellar's jays about the cabin.

Nov. 1, 77. Muskrat in the morning eating aquatic plants in irrigation canal near Prospect Green; also a skunk killed in same area.

Nov. 5, 1977. Buckhorn Methodist Camp, Rist Canyon, with Giles. Drove up stopping for the hackberry grove near Whale Rock. Small grove up from Whale Rock, on north side of road, south facing slope. Good red-tailed hawk.

Drove into Methodist Camp. Go through 3 gates, all unlocked, through adjoining private property, but no problem. Spoke to a caretaker, who lives there all year, and is seldom snowed in. Camp is winterized for 40-50; in summer 90-100. Picnicked out in shirtsleeve weather. Then hiked generally locating the trails south, on both sides of a 7864 low summit. A bit confusing in the area of an old farm (summer home, though rough, and a small sawmill; cattle still in here); but I think this could be located. Road goes far south toward Christ Mountain and Horsetooth area. 5-6 wildflowers yet in bloom, in protected areas; some fall composites, bluebells, and some mustards, Veronica. Nice views from some parts of this road, into Fall Mountain, Comanche Peak, etc. All with daddy much on my mind. Late fall, and it's dying time.

Nov. 21, 1977. Daddy died, & trip to Virginia.

Dec. 11, 1977. Hike up Well Gulch, near Arthur's Rock in State Park west of Horsetooth. Sign at bottom, Well Gulch, 2 miles (presumably to the sign at the summit, see below). Hiked up alone, first in light snow underfoot, but upwards the trail was nearly clear. Mild day, left about 2.30 p.m. Uneventful climb. The trail crosses the draw several times, many switchbacks, but is nicely graded to the saddle at the top. One trail joins about 1/3 way up, presumably the Timber Trail, going on over to a more northern picnic area (see map). At the summit, reach a flat saddle, and join a jeep road, with sign indicating Arthur's Rocks, 1 mile, and Timber Trail 4 miles. The jeep trail had fresh tire tracks in the light snow. Seems to go west a while and connect with the road that comes back around, north, and down into Soldier Canyon subdivision. Deer tracks. Siskins, chickadees. A fellow passed on the way said there are turkeys in here. 11 deer, all doe, on roadside on return in Scout. 2 rabbits.

Dec. 17, 77. Christmas count of Audubon Society, with Ron Ryder and Mrs. Teale (Audrey Ryder's mother). Spent morning in his area to canvass, vicinity of Lindenmeier Lake.

Canada goose - thousands

redwings - dozens

starling - too many

English sparrow

mourning dove - rare for the winter

flicker - a dozen or so

magpie - dozen or so

coots, on lake

widgeon - whistling call

common goldeneye

horned lark, and call

northern shrike

Great horned owl - in tree at Myrle Payne's, n. of Plummer School. A pair nests here.

kestrel - not too common in winter. Denver has more.

bald eagle - at the top of the ice on Lindenmeier, and later on the upper end, feeding on something, probably a dead duck or goose. Much white in this bird, an older immature, 3rd year or so. Later seen closely, both on ice and in air.

meadowlark

white-crowned sparrow

tree sparrow

house finch

There are cardinals in summer along the Platte, Empire and Riverside Reservoir areas, and eastwards. Also bobwhite year round. Also white-tailed deer. There are mockingbirds around farms in eastern Colorado. Some nest in Fort Collins.

Tamarack Ranch, very near Crook, is good birding area. The State owns this, with 20 miles of river front. Red Lion area, state owned, is also good, near Julesburg. (Crook-Julesburg, Sedgwick area).

Rough-legged hawk seems big headed compared to the redtail, and the rough leg and black belly can often be seen when perched. Rough-legged and redtail are the common ones here in town area.. Ferruginous can be found at Pawnee Grasslands. Harlan's hawk is now included in Redtail.

Short eared owl, in winter, flies low over medium grass in twilight, looks like an overgrown moth. Great Horned owl will stay in same location many years, if habitat doesn't change. Prairie falcon flies like an overgrown pigeon.

There is a great blue heron colony at the Fossil Creek Reservoir, north shore about center. Black-crowned night herons are usually there too. Rarely snowy egrets. Usually a cormorant or two, in summer.

After the Canada goose, the snow goose is next most common. White fronted and Ross's goose more rare. Blue Goose is considered color variation of the snow goose? Three whistling swans have been alternating between College Lake and Watson Lake lately. They are often seen at Fossil Creek and Boyd Reservoir, and at Duck Lake in between them.

Song sparrow bobs its tail when flying.

Dec. 22, 1977. Skied South Bald Mountain Trail. With Don Crosby, Ken Freeman, Bill Slausson. Left about 7.30 in Ken's Blazer, on trail about 9.15. This trail leaves from about .2 mile below the Bellaire Lake Campground Road (though that would also connect with it, but at much more distance). Description follows pretty much as in Hagan write up, which see. This should make some good summer hiking, and perhaps a Scout drive up this road. The parallel road up S. Fork Elkhorn Creek, 1/4 mile south connects upwards, and would make a good circuit hike for the children, or for wildflowers. What is the Bellaire Lake Campground like? 8 miles roundtrip. No wildlife, some sign.

Some pinyon pines have been discovered in Hewlett Gulch. (Bill Slausson )

end 1977.

1978

January 7, 1978. Buckhorn Canyon with the children, to slide on the frozen waterfalls. Fine day, and after much sliding we walked up the Sheep Creek road a little ways and cooked stew on the Svea stove. Then walked up Twin Cabin Gulch a ways; seems to be a fair trail here that probably leads to the Harlan Gulch area higher up.

Feb. 4, 1978. Empire Reservoir & bald eagles. Four bald eagles, 3 adult, one immature. With Shonny. But the Empire Reservoir is very low, and we could walk across to where the eagles usually perch. Saw one adult in flight here. Later, up north of here by the riverside, saw one adult in flight, and one perched, beautifully through scope, in good and full sun. A fourth, immature in flight. Mild day, though snow was on the ground. Scattered hawks, one redtail, one rough-legged, one ferruginous. Good many meadowlarks.

Feb. 25, 1978. Young's Gulch and Prairie Gulch alone. Hiked up as before to the junction, left fork goes on up to Stratton Park. Took right fork and hiked out to Stove Prairie road. No problems. Enough snow in parts of this to make traveling a little slow, but a nice day. Many robins. Noticing mosses on this trip. Brought in Polytrichum juniperinum. Lots of Hedwigia ciliata on the rocks, in distinct phases, wet and dry. Lots of Orthotrichum on the rocks.

One hike remains in here, taking the trail up the hill and away from the creek, just before the junction between, the Stratton Park and the Prairie Gulch trails. This will probably connect up with a road on top; but it will not be wet, and may not be so interesting. Deer tracks; little wildlife.

March ??, 78. Hole-in-the-Wall Mine, with Shonny & Giles. The road is not posted, but somebody seems to live in here. There is a good mine shaft - horizontal, on the upper end of the road, which goes an unknown distance back into the hillside.

Crocus are late this year, about 2nd week of March.

April 6, Thursday. Hike alone up Waltonia Gulch, and over to Quillan Gulch and to Pole Hill Road. Hiked up Gulch, got permission from a Mrs. Chrisman to go on over. Thousands of Pasque Flowers on the southern exposure, broad, open, going down, Quillan Gulch. Arrived at Pole Hill Road. I think this road can be traveled to here (although there are some private signs below), because it is the access road to the power plant in here. Arrival point at Quillan Gulch and Pole Hill Road is not posted. Walked up road to canal, and shortly beyond this is locked gate and lesser road. But not posted; perhaps government land. Walked on up this and took a lesser road toward Pole Hill. Lunched at a saddle up here a ways, overlooking Long's Peak. 3 deer, which I got the drop on on the way here. Returned via the Veteran's Memorial Picnic Ground, only a few tables, not posted, and road continues to a trailer home-cabin here.

Bluebirds, hawk, rabbit; one spring beauty, and myriads of Pasqueflowers. You could probably drive to the canal, and walk in several ways from here; but the woods are dryish; might not be too interesting.

April 21. Hewlett Gulch, to Pinyon Pines, and over toward Red Feather Road. Up past the mines, and on past 2-3 meanders, and then strike west at stone ruin. I did not follow road up, but did follow road all the way back. Follow up Gulch, taking north fork, and work on up to where the Pinyon Pines are supposed to be. Found only one small one, and one good one. Continued on 4-WD road up into woods, and then down to a breakout, gate, and view of Crown Point. Lunched here. In the woods, just before lunch, passed a triangle junction, meeting a better road, entering on the weakest of the three. Continue down toward breakout and lunch spot. Continued after lunch on road in open area, past defunct cabin, and to spring.

The spout spring was dry, but there is a covered reservoir at the upstream and in-ground end of the pipe. 7 deer. The latter part is on posted land. Just past the lunch breakout, 4-WD road descends a gulch, and may go down, perhaps degenerating into foot trail to Poudre River at Diamond Rock Picnic Ground; try this sometime.

About 15 kinds of wildflowers out: Mertensia, Pasqueflowers. Townsendia. Claytonia. Yellow violet. Few buttercups. One golden eagle flew up the gulch low and steady, right by me. Many robins, some sparrows.

May 5-7, Friday-Sunday. 30" of snow in Fort Collins, when we were looking for spring. Much rain the week before. Previous record for snow in May was 11". This almost equals the all-time record for snow in any twenty four hour period. Melted rapidly Monday and Tuesday, pretty well gone by Wednesday.

May 15, 78. Hike up Sheep Creek 4WD and to Crystal Mountain Road. (I started out to go up Twin-Cabin Gulch, but the water was too high - too much creek jumping.) Bronco was stuck at the point where a Jeep Wagoneer was stuck some time before when I got this far with Shonny & Giles in winter. It was gone when I returned. Steady climb, and then this tops out in nice area, though too much cut over. Reached Moody Hill area, a meadow and some ruined cabins, and soon above this a good road, which I walked out to the Crystal Mountain Road. This latter road, on to the Moody Hill meadow area, would be no problem even in a sedan. The 4WD road is rough in many places, but practically impassable at the place where the Bronco and the Wagoneer were stuck.

The area around Moody Hill meadow is confusing; road has been rebuilt here, and I could not make quite good sense of the trails on the topo map. See the revised sketch on the reverse. On return I took the 4WD road back from where it turns off the good road, at a view of East and West White Pine Mtns; this goes up a couple hundred yards, and then reaches a junction; turned left and descended 30 minutes to reach the earlier trail.

Lunched at the Crystal Mountain road junction; fellow came by on a motor bike driving some horses to Moody Hill meadow. Work out the trails and roads in here. Not much out in flora; collected some mosses.

May 20-21, 1978. Aspenglen Campground in Rocky Mountain National Park, with Giles in camper. 68 elk and 39 deer, mostly Saturday evening in Horseshoe Park. Very little flora out. Collected 12-15 mosses. There is a trail that comes round the corner at the bottom of the campground and goes on up into the area above Horseshoe Park. Giles and I hiked it enough

to locate it. Several Audubon's warblers; McGillivray's warbler. Quite a few Evening Grosbeaks in campground. Hummingbirds. Ouzel.

June 6, 1978. Roaring Creek to Nunn Creek Basin, Poudre Canyon. On the trail at Kinikini about 8.00. Leaves from a turnout with road equipment & gravel in it. Trail crosses Creek in lower ranges twice, once on logs, once on a good-built wooden bridge. Water was about as high as it will ever get, as it had rained most of the previous week, and there were many late snows. Then the trail stays on east of creek until the upper part, one more crossing.

Enter the "silent forest" after some climbing, trail becomes level for a long time, and there is not really much climbing the rest of the day. Some landmarks can be made out, as on topo map. In the upper reaches, I encountered too much snow, but pressed-on to road from Nunn Creek Basin. Upper crossing on logs. Trail is variously blazed, small over large slash, or orange blazes, or some plastic strips of red; none of them too consistent, but all together adding up to a reasonably blazed trail. Many blowdowns in upper part; lower part had been cleared.

Really nice woods, though, and a good trail to know. The Nunn Creek Basin area, with various roads needs exploring. South Bald mountain is not all that far from here. Lunched where foot trail joins 4WD road.

Three deer on return; had to whistle to get them not to walk me down; they didn't see me. Collected a few mosses. There are good mosses in the lower stream area, at the crossings, and you might return here sometime.

June 12-14, 1978. Backpacked Storm Mtn. Access Road & Nelson Spring area.

I was here March 24, 1970. June 5, 1971. Later: returned May 5, 1990. Dec. 18, 1994.

Left 7.30, on trail about 8.00. Ascend as before to about where I saw the bear tracks before. Continue ascending in much cut over woods to some flats where the Jug Gulch trail joins. Road continues along a ridge with several overviews of Jug Gulch. Jug Gulch Trail is a grassy and little used (if at all used) 4WD trail; met a fellow later who was bear hunting who said he had walked it.

The woods improve as you approach Bear Gulch. The roadside back for 400 yards or so just before crossing the creek in Bear Gulch is especially fine for mosses. Lumber crew was working in below on Bear Gulch. Pass the junction of trail over to Nelson Spring (which I was to take next day). Continue up Bear Gulch in fine, rich woods. Moist and especially fine aspen. Trail leaves Bear Gulch and rises to drier woods, then follows ridge, and winds past two stream sources (branches of the stream in Spruce Gulch), both with fair-water (in, June, after a wet spring). Fine Polypody Fern rock in here.

Later, and with good ascent, woods become much timbered again. Commercial cutting going on in here. Several dozen ravens spooked off road in here; and they were in here on return the next day. Took cut-off road to main road (from Drake) to Galuchie Park. Went astray briefly on new road to private cabin on lower part of Galuchie Park. Good campsite at the head of Galuchie Park, tho there was sparse water here; but at the cabin blow there was a spring-fed pond. Good road to here, possibly even for sedans. Road worsens for the climb round toward Storm Mtn after Galuchie Park, but I think I could have made it without too much trouble. After the initial ascent in here, no problems. Reached Foggy Park.



Camped at Foggy Park, nice spout spring and good meadow. After supper walked up Storm Mountain; enormous quarry just below the summit; what on earth could they have taken out of here. Next morning scouted for a while the trails leading out the main ridge toward Donner Pass; and the one descending to Black Creek area.

Returned as before, only using the main section of the Storm Mtn Access Road from Galuchie Meadows, and at the first crossing of the stream in Bear Gulch took the road over Lampton Ridge and to Nelson Spring. Again, a lovely campsite; good spout spring. 5 elk; three of them young bulls in the meadow after supper. I walked up on them and watched them twenty minutes at 50 yards until I eventually spooked them. They never saw me, until I gave myself away.

Fellow came through in 4WD truck, bear hunting. Says he baits bear in 5-6 locations; watches the bait now and again until he sees that a bear is coming in regularly; then he will go and wait at the bait until about dark when the bear comes in and shoot it. Some 3-4 bears a season are killed in here; though a lot of people quit hunting in summer, as the coat is rubbed off and not much good. Says there are several flocks of wild turkeys in here; people would harass them and that is why the Storm Mountain Access Road is closed off now.

Next day, hiked over via Bald Ridge to the area of Fish Creek drainage, until I reached a lovely meadow with a cabin in ruins; a ruined barn, and an old tractor sitting out front; very picturesque location and fine meadow; but I could not see that there was water here. This area could be reached from the Crystal Mountain area, and a circle hike worked out in here. It could also be reached from Donner pass. 3 elk, all cows, in the meadow.

Returned to lunch at Nelson Spring; and hiked out in afternoon; long and uninteresting hike out.

About 6 deer; 8 elk, several rabbits; 10-12 squirrels, both chickaree and tuft-eared. I saw what hooked like a tree sparrow, but they aren't supposed to be here in summer. Towhees. Red crossbill. Downy woodpecker. Often heard: ruby crowned kinglet. Flushed 3-4 large birds, presumably blue grouse; could they have been turkeys? Wrens, siskins; mountain chickadees; many ravens; several hawks.

No snow; no ticks; is this past tick season? Perfect weather; good flora. Corallorhiza orchid; many Calypso orchids; very many Shooting Stars (Dodecatheon); Iris; Blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium); Corydalis is especially good in here, and flourishes in the cut-over woods, giving some beauty in otherwise scarred forests.

I saw no 4WD that I could not have gotten over, if the road is dry. The only half bad places are just past Galuchie Park. The only locked gate is at the very start; and although the road says "Closed" on the upper entrances; it is not gated or locked.

June 16-19. Hike over Green Ridge Trail. On trail at Chambers Lake about 9.00 a.m. Drove Scout to the little stream that feeds Laramie Lake, and parked it there. High water season now, but the stream could have been crossed; others did it. Road to Laramie Lake, about 1 mile is rough, but passable. There are a couple logging roads in here that are confusing, but if you make it to the campground and outhouse at the creek crossing you are half-way there, and shouldn't be too much trouble to find the way.

Proceeded on foot on Green Ridge Trail. Very few turns-offs and most of the way it is quite obvious. Passed the western one of Twin Lakes, but here the trail is more in the woods than shown. Later, small unnamed lake can be seen thru trees. Proceeded north, marking the twists

and turns in the trail with compass bearings and knowing where I was with surprising success, as there are few landmarks on this trail. Plenty of water (in June) and in the p.m. some problem crossing snowpacks and runoff swamps; nothing too serious. Reached the creek that runs down Williams Gulch about 4.00, and camped here. Windy. Below, where the creek turns from east to south there is a very large spring, and saw elk in here, 6 elk, 2 of them this season's calves.

Saturday. Hiked a triangular circuit around Nunn Creek Basin. Took Jeep trail to eastern end of Nunn Creek Basin, making contact with the trail I recently hiked up Roaring Fork. Plenty of snow in here still, but a considerable melt off since June 6, making the difference between ease and difficulty of travel. Porcupine at the junction in Nunn Creek Basin; I walked up on him, was only a few feet away, and he never saw me for all his prowling around. Proceeded generally on the road that runs to the north side of Nunn Creek Basin to the main road south to Nunn Creek, and, after lunch, followed this south to the end of the good 4WD at the place where Nunn Creek turns west and starts descent to Laramie River.

Here 4WD becomes rougher. But there were enough snow packs in here to prevent driving it yet; in season it would be no problem.

Returned to the previous night's camp, and picked up pack, and hiked south to the open area marked Salt Ground #,8; camped here. Coyotes barking several times in the night; and some unidentified sound which must be some sort of owl or goatsucker, but I can't identify it; like rushing wings. (Later: nighthawk booming.)

June 18, Sunday. Hiked out, coming out about 3.00. Drove the Laramie River Road and took the Deadman Road up a little ways, camping about where the sagebrush country gives way to timber (in section 12 of Deadman quad). Poor-will was quite vocal on a little knoll, timbered, but with sagebrush around it, in the evening, and I walked up and flushed it; flew away like a big moth. Very notable call; not only the poor-will, but the little "ip" at the end, when up close.

Monday. Drove the Deadman road, to find snow drifts just above Deadman Park. Walked into Deadman Park and south to contact the road from the Green Ridge Trail coming up from the south. These woods are rather cutover; and not too interesting; though later in the summer, with more flora out, Nunn Creek Basin might be more interesting.

Returned and tried the cut-off road over to the Sand Creek Pass Road, but found a culvert washed out. So returned down the mountain, to Glendevey area, and up Sand Creek Pass road. Sand Creek pass is not timbered and no signs of snow in here. Went into Beaver Creek area on good 4WD, expecting to camp, but not too attractive an area, so came on home.

Warbling vireo was very active in camp. Redtail hawk. Many Calypso orchids. About 8 elk, 10-12 deer. The road up Beaver Creek is good 4WD and might see how far it goes later in the summer.

July 22, 1978. Crystal Mountain Road, with Giles. Crystal Mtn road is marked private, but seems to be semi-public. Up and around Turner Hill, then south through open area divided by the line between townships 23 and 24. After that I had to spend same time reconstructing the area. Went on past my junction with May 15 hike and where I lunched. Road is easily passable by 4WD, but fairly soon locked gate and posted. Walked in to a cabin, new cabin of logs, and view of Boiler Hill due south. Returned to lunch at car.

After lunch returned to work out the area. Troublesome junction in township 25 where some 4-5 roads come in, and what appears to be the main road south on the map, through some meadows, is not now present. Private property in here, but the lesser road at this junction heading west briefly and turning south is on National Forest Land, not posted, and took the Scout up here a ways, parked just short of mica prospect, and then walked down to Sheep Creek. Before Sheep Creek the road re-joins a better road that runs thru private property. Sheep Creek crossing is a nice area, and no posted signs in here. Several hikes - Crystal Mountain, Donner Pass, and circle routes in the Fish Creek area could be made from here.

Returned to figure out the newly built road found on May 15 hike, as overlaid on the Jeep Road shown on topo map. You could probably go on past the cabin seen just before lunch and circle round back from Moody Hill on the newer road.

Good mica mine is up the hill past the first meadows; Giles and I visited it.

July 28-30, 1978. Camping in camper with family at Nash Fork Campground, Medicine Bow National Forest. Pine Grosbeaks prominent in campground. This is high campground at 10,200 ft. Shonny & Giles rode horses Sunday. Saturday, considerable rain.

Aug. 14. Hike to the Crater on Specimen Mtn, RMNP. Reached trailhead at 7.30, with much mixed cloudiness, mists in and out the mountains. About 12 deer, many, of them bucks, in a meadow about timberline. 63 elk counted at a distance on the flats below Specimen Mountain. Hiked up to the Crater; the trail is closed beyond here due to protecting the sheep and to erosion. No sheep.

Graupel storm while there. Hiked south on the ridge tops a while; another dozen elk in here, many bulls. Casual return looking at mosses, and collected some coming, down and later at Poudre Lake, Milner Pass below.

Weather gradually worsened, and there was considerable storm on Trail Ridge Road, then much wind down the canyon and in Loveland. Trail Ridge was closed that night due to snowstorm. Also hiked briefly up Sheep Rock.

Exquisite Aulacomnium palustre with pseudopodia in the swampy area near Poudre Lakes. Spruces and firs on the walk up Sheep Rock are much afflicted with brown felt blight - Herpotricha nigra, which makes a black felty mass binding the leaves together. Another one is Neopeckia coulteri which affects pines. Both are ascomycetes, and grow in the cold season when the tree is half buried in the snow, under the snowline for the most part. Mostly on seedlings and young trees. (Wayne Nishijima, forest pathologist, CSU)

Snow-mold, - felty white mycelial mat over dried grass adjacent to melting snow, often seen in alpine (& in northern yards). Disappears with sun & drying.

Aug. 19-21. Kelly-Dahl Campground with family. Tungsten mines in area, many adits and shafts here and there. Went to Central City and Bobtail Mine with family on Sunday. Monday a.m. hiked to Lone Star Mine area; trailhead here is a Forest Service Camp, apparently a bunkhouse and residential quarters for forest service crews. Easy 4WD all the way in; somewhat posted around the lakes on upper part of Beaver Creek, and yet the whole thing is marked as a cross country ski trail. White-breasted nuthatches very active in camp; four hummingbirds tried to drink from the red taillights of the camper. Several red-tails. Coyotes

in the night full moon.

See what the Rainbow Lakes campground looks like, north and west of Nederland; sections 32-33. Is there a good gravel road here from the Univ. of Colorado Camp, and what sort of climb is it, looks like about a four-mile drive with a 1200 foot climb; to 10,200 ft. Should be a good hike here to Arapaho Glacier, about 4 miles. Also consider a hike to the Devil's Thumb & Pass, north of Rollins Pass.

Aug. 28. Rainbow Lakes Campground to Arapaho Glacier Overlook. Rainbow Lakes road is rough, but perfectly passable by sedan (in season, at least). 4WD road to Caribou townsite looks interesting; Caribou can be reached by better road from Eldora. Left home 5 a.m.; left trailhead 8.00 a.m. Campground looks o.k., high, with water. Lakes are half a mile up by trail. Fairly easy trail ascends gradually thru forest, with fenced barbed wire alongside keeping you out of Boulder watershed.

Trail emerges from timber and ascends Caribou Mtn, and on to slabside Old Baldy and to overlook. Well worn trail, also cairns. Weather was misty and cloudy below, but opened up as I got out of timber for a lovely day; the better for drifting mists here and there. Overlook is a commanding view of the glacier and the Indian Peaks to the north and south. North and South Arapaho are dominating from here. Uneventful return, 12 miles roundtrip, but I felt the altitude more than I thought I might, and was weary on return. Little wildlife; many pipits on the glacier. Rather dry trail.

Sept. 16-17. Camper trip with family to Moraine Park, RMNP.

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1. Camper trip with Giles and Andy Asmus to Mountain Park Campground, Poudre Canyon. Hiked up Mt. McConnell, and Sunday down to the spout spring down the river and up a canyon.

Oct. 15. Day in RMNP with Mother and Willie Lee and family. Picnic at Moraine Park and a bit around Bear Lake.

Oct. 21. Drove to Cameron Pass with Mother and Willie Lee. Overcast, but nice day. Picnic at Mountain Park Campground. Snowed the next day.

Nov. 22. North Fork Fish Creek and Latman Lake, from Crystal Mtn Road. Parked Scout at junction where I previously parked with Giles. Footed it down the best road to Sheep Creek Area. (this is in section 36, state land), not using the lesser road that skirts around thru Nat Forest. You must cross some private land in here, but the road seems well used, nowhere gated, tho it is posted once.

Ascend on good road from Sheep Creek crossing to a mine at a high break out of the road. Several roads meet in here, but are obscured by a re-building of the main road. I later made them all out; one goes down and around to a good campsite; I took a moss specimen in here.

Descend by good adit and come to private land on N. Fork Fish Creek. This is the first place you would really have to stop the Scout, and the road would be no problem at all in good weather. Took the loop south through section 6, crossed two meadows as on map, and came out at the lovely meadow reached on June 14, 78, with cabin and tractor abandoned. Continued to intersection, 4-way, at south edge of section 32, at small sawmill. Walked down to Latman Lake and lunched here. A small pond but apparently natural, and high over a drop-

off down toward canyon of Fish Creek proper. Unusual. Returned up N. Fork Fish Creek. This is private land, and there is one good cabin and several trailers in here. The road is somewhat rebuilt, going more in the woods, less down the meadow.

Many ravens, a thousand crows gathered on Buckhorn Road. A few hawks, squirrels, rabbits, but on the whole a good but somewhat wintry day.

Donner Pass and Crystal Mountain should be the next hikes in here. Also finish untangling the Moody Hill Trail.

Dec. 27, 1978. Arthur's Rock, with Giles. Lunch on top in good weather. But the season has been cold. Snow in the backyard solid since Thanksgiving, and 20 below here one night recently. Keyed Ceanothus fendleri, Buckbrush (genus of New Jersey tea) from here in winter condition.

1979

January 6, 1979. Rocky Ridge lake area, north of town. State Wildlife area, 3 ponds in here, looks like good prowling area close to town, although somewhat open and uninteresting. Snow covered and cold. Many rabbit tracks, odor of skunk strong in one place. Many geese overhead.

January 27. Wellington Wildlife area, with Giles. Cold and not much activity.

January and December combined are the coldest two months on record in Fort Collins, in about 100 years of record keeping.

February 3, 1979. Empire and Riverside Reservoirs. 6 bald eagles. One immature in flight in the vicinity of the crossing of the S. Platte just before reaching Riverside. Later, one very good adult not so far away, at the river crossing. I had parked at one end of the bridge and had it in the scope, perched in a tree nearby. Some large hawk flew at it several times, and screeched at it, but it dodged and did not fly. Later it flew off, down river a ways and perched again. (Helped pull a fellow out who was stuck in his pickup truck down a road nearby).

Lunched at the State wildlife area at Empire, but nothing here. Water is down, no water in the bay area where I have so often seen them, and everything is frozen up in any case. Drove up the riverside area toward Orchard, one immature in here. Also a very nice rough-legged hawk, perched, and good in scope. Black belly and black strips up a lighter breast. Returned up the riverside, as nearly as the road goes. Two immatures out over the river woods enroute. One more adult back at the bridge, which could have been the same one seen in the morning. Many horned larks, magpies, crows, redwings, tree sparrows. About a half dozen marsh hawks, and several unidentified hawks.

March 9-19, 1979. Trip to Alabama and hikes about the farm.

April 22. Hike to the "A" foothills below Horsetooth Reservoir.

April 28. Range Science Field Trip with Dr. Clint Washer. Substituted for a canceled trip to the Grasslands to see eagle and hawk habitat there with Audubon Society.

Went to six sites, to identify the components of the community there. These would make good places to return to for short winter outings, knowing about what to look for, as below.

Site # 1. Out from CSU Solar Village, toward and on the flank of the low hogback, first to West. Just below (south) of the line of shrubs on the hogback. Soil is a clay, and here holds more moisture than that just below it, and hence can have some tall grasses.

Little bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium) - standing up at you in clumps

Big bluestem (Andropogon gerardi) - fills in the patches in between. Both abundant.

Side oats gramma (Bouteloua curtipendula) - smaller, common. Hairs on margins of leaf.

Needle and Thread (Stipa comata) - V notched ligule

Buffalograss (Buchloe dactyloides) - a little here

Red Three Awn (Aristida longiseta) - a little

Western wheatgrass (Agropyron smithii) - a little.

Forbs:

Yellow parsnip (Musineon divaricatum)

Wild parsnip (Lomatium orientale)

Bastard toadflax (Comandra pallida)

Candytuft (Thlaspi alpestre)

Oxytropis sericea (White locoweed)

Dried, left over from last season.

Sunflower. Eriogonum - a tall, deep brown stem

Site # 2. In front of (north of) the Solar Village, up (east of drive in), south of the main road here.

This is an upland loam, very exposed.

Blue gramma (Bouteloua gracilis)

Needle and Thread (Stipa comata)

Western Wheatgrass (Andropogon smithii)

Townsendia exscapa (= sericea), Easter daisy

Threadleaf sedge (Carex filifolia)

Aster ericoides (Heath aster)

growing; a little further up the hill:

Eriogonum effusum, Wild buckwheat. Often found more on the plains

A common weed in the lower, grassy area here is Artemisia dracunculus, Wormwood (a sagebrush) grows in clumps, midst the rather closely cropped grass.

Site # 3. Horsetooth at the dam. Rock-studded foothills. Pull into the first parking area south, and walk up over a fence and down over the cliffside a little. There is more rock here, but the rest of the soil has more water. Deeper moisture.

Big bluestem (Andropogon gerardi)

Little bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium)

Needle and Thread (Stipa comata)

June-grass (Koeleria cristata = gracilis)

Canada Wild-rye (Elymus canadensis)

Porcupine grass (Stipa spartea)

Agropyron albicans griffithsii

Sideoats gramma (Bouteloua curtipendula)

Blue gramma (Bouteloua gracilis)

Carex heliophila (Sunsedge) - earliest flowering Carex on outer foothills

Wild parsnip (Lomatium orientale)

Potentilla fissa (Sticky Cinquefoil)

Wild rose (Rosa woodsii)

Squaw currant (Ribes cereum)

Opuntia polycantha, Starvation Cactus. This one has many spines. Another which is also common is Opuntia humifusa (= rafinesquei), with few spines.

Artemisia ludoviciana, Louisiana sagewort. (The reference is to "old" Louisiana, i.e. the territory of the Louisiana purchase).

Artemisia frigida, Fringed sage.

The trees can grow where they get moisture from crevices deep in cracks, beyond the pull of evaporation.

Sand Cherry, Prunus besseyi. In cracks on the rocks on tip of the hill, nearly in flower.

Site # 4. Rist Canyon. Drive up past whale rock, to about the first place



to pull off to the right. A new home is under construction on the south side.

Rock-studded mountain loam. Ponderosa Pine-Douglas fir zone. There is a tree and shrub overstory here.

Bitterbrush

Mountain mahogany

Eriogonum umbellatum, Sulphur-flower.

Mountain Muhly, Muhlenbergia montana. Bunch grass. papery ligules, 1 cm.

Agropyron albicans griffithsii

Little bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium)

Carex heliophila (Sunsedge) - more abundant here than in previous site.

Leucopoa (= Hesperochloa) kingii, King's Spike-fescue. (Named for Clarence King), a larger, coarse one, blades come up early & green through the clumps.

Aster spp.

Nelson's larkspur

Death Campus and Larkspur are prominent early & green. But poison, and you can put stock out too early, or they will favor this and become sick.

Site # 5. Owl Canyon. Parked below and walked up to the Pinyon Grove.

At the highway side three were noted:

Agropyron cristatum. Crested wheat-grass. Asiatic species commonly planted to stabilize soil.

Bromus inermis. Also planted to stabilize soil. Noted by a leaf pattern like a MacDonald's M, halfway out the blade. Results from the way it is crimped in the bud. Other Bromes may have this, but this one is especially noted so.

Canada Wild-rye (Elymus canadensis)

Further up, and walking parallel (south) a ways, in a pinyon cluster.

The top of the rim here is, Engleside limestone, Lyons is below, it. Why are the pinyons here? Not known. One theory is that Indians camped here and left a cache of nuts. But it may have to do with the limestone. In limestone soil, often things, can grow further north than elsewhere; seems to make it warmer in some way.

The soil is shallow here and there is little water, and little grass.

Shrubs:

Cercocarpus montanus, Mtn. mahogany

Rhus trilobata, Skunkbush

Forbs:

Viola nuttallii, Nuttall's violet. yellow

Helianthus pumilus, Little perennial sunflower

Harbouria trachypleura, Whiskbroom parsley

Grasses:

Needle & thread, Stipa comata.

Indian rice-grass, Oryzopsis hymenoides - under the bushes

Sideoats Gramma, Boutelous curtipendula

Blue Gramma, Bouteloua gracilis

Red three-awn, Aristida longiseta

Site # 6. Salt flat. Turn East on the road from Owl Canyon, into sections 6 and 5. At a crossing of a creek, with some cottonwoods off to the north (probably just east of a spring shown in section 6. State land is in the vicinity.

Off in the distance is the Santanka formation, being mined. This is loaded with gypsum crystals. There is salt accumulation here. A loam.

Notice the big hummocks or tussocks, makes it hard to mow.

Alkali Sacaton, Sporobolus airoides. A grass. In big hummocks. The top of the inflorescence breaks off and becomes a tumbleweed.

Salt-grass, Distichlis. In between the big hummocks.

Tansy Mustard. Descurania

Kochia iranica (sometimes called K. scoparia). Burning-bush. Summer cypress.

Agropyron smithii, Western cheat-grass

Four-wing Saltbush, Altriplex canescens. A larger shrub (2-3 ft. high) nearer the road.

Below, in the marshy area, at the creek.

Carex nebraskensis. Nebraska sedge. With a whited leaf. Large plant, deep rooted.

Down the road toward Owl Canyon is some Winterfat on the roadside.

May 5, 1979. Friday. Hiked up Well Gulch Trail in a late season snow, under clear sky, but too much snow to walk in easily. Some flora out beneath the snow, and in melted areas here and there. 7 deer.

May 14, 1979. Jug Gulch. Hike partly aborted by high water. Drove to Cedar Cove, and took a while figuring out where I was, due to many new roads from the subdivision here. Talked to D. Leuty, who lives here and keeps the roads, including the narrow road up, free of snow for the winter. Eleven families live here year round, some hundreds own lots. Eventually drove to a turnaround at the end of the road in Filing 7 (see on topo map). This is probably the best place to park.

Footed it down to the junction with Cedar Creek and all is as shown on the topo here. Road down to Cedar Cove seen. But water was too high to go up much. Returned and made for the junction of Cedar Creek and the stream down Jug Gulch, where the waters divide roughly in half. I could make it upstream from here somewhat, but eventually turned around at the junction of Spruce Gulch and Jug Gulch. Nice walk in here, but you will need lower water to do it.

Hundreds of thousands of Pasque Flowers in Cedar Cove, the most I have ever seen. Absolutely majestic, whole hillsides of them. The wooded, slopes of Jug Gulch were loaded with Spring Beauties, again by the hundreds of thousands. Bluebells, Draba, a little Arenaria, Nuttall's violets, several Buttercup species. Seven deer. Bluebirds, many of them, and sparrows. Several hawks. Collected a good many mosses, both in Jug Gulch, and later at the head of the narrow road up to Cedar Cove, which is fine moss habitat. Could come in here with Giles sometime for this.

Might also try a scramble up Bobcat Gulch, as this could be reached all winter. Not posted here. I was last in here in 1970, though up the Storm Mtn Road last summer.

May 21, 1979. Kanawha State Forest, below Charleston, W. Va. (Route 2, Box 285). From a visit to Julia in Huntington, enroute to supper with Jim Somerville. Chuck Ripper knows Osbra Eye, superintendent, from whom I got some idea where to hike. Eliot Porter photographed warblers in here, and some photographs of the worm-eating warbler ? were taken here and published in one of his famous books.

Hiked up Portercamp Hollow and over ridgetop, circling round to drop back down Polly Hollow and return to car. Good day, threatening rain in earlier part, sunny later.

Interrupted fern

Cinnamon fern

Bluets

Loosestrife

Oxalis, yellow sour grass

Hypoxis, Yellow star grass

Geranium, a larger one (maculatum?)

Mayapple, Podophyllum

Skullcap

Anemonella,  
Meadow Rue, Thalictrum  
Clintonia, Clinton's lily  
Maidenhair fern  
Trillium, fruiting  
Magnolia  
Botrychium  
Onoclea, Sensitive fern  
Arbutus  
Flame Azalea, one in fine bloom  
Hydrangea  
Blackberry, much in bloom  
Beech  
Birch - which one?  
Laurel, in bloom  
Indian Physic  
Silene, Indian Pink (bright red)  
several mints  
Mitella  
Jack in the pulpit  
Asarum (ginger)  
Sassafras  
Lindera (Spicebush)  
Basswood - large leaves  
Chestnut, perhaps a Chinquapin  
Touch-me-not, Impatiens - just coming out  
Sweet Cicely (Osmorhiza)  
Hawkweed, Hieracium venosum, with purple veins

Many warblers  
Pewee  
Cuckoo  
Terrapin  
enormous numbers of tadpoles in truck tracks on the trails  
crawfish

Supper with Jim Somerville, at Peytona. His son had just killed a copperhead in the yard, hardly dead yet when I examined it. Hourglass pattern. Collected 2 mosses.

Later went over the top and down the other side in car (to Hershaw) but this road is not the best, dirt and often washed.

June 4-14. Trip with family in camper to Grand Canyon, Arches, Mesa Verde

Thru Eisenhower Tunnel, over Vail Pass (not much of a climb from this direction, getting to the tunnel portal was more strain), lunched at Hanging Lake Picnic Area. Very large boxelders, high stream water. On to Glenwood Springs and Grand Junction, increasingly desert onwards. Much Sphaeralcea, Globe Mallow, making the desert often copper orange. Much Stanleya, Prince's Plume. Arrived Arches, 5.00. Campground full, Camped in Moab, just north of town. Kids swam.

Tuesday, June 5. Into Arches. Walked over to Balanced Rock, and drove into Windows Area. Walked over to Double Arch. Returned to main road and drove north to turnout to view Delicate Arch - seen some 1 mile distant. Picnicked beneath junipers in area just south of campground. Many gnats, Jane later proved allergic to their bite, but they did not trouble the rest of us very much. Walked with Giles up to see Landscape Arch, and Pine Tree Arch. Returned to camper. At twilight walked with Shonny down Park Avenue, with high fins. Slickrock wash.

Wednesday, June 6. Drove south, gaining elevation by Montecello. Lovely lupines. South to Monument Valley, and picnicked at Navajo Tribal Visitor Center. On south thru Navajo lands and increasing desert. Aborted camping at Cameron and drove thru Grand Canyon and camped south in private area. Drunken party nearby and frustrating morning getting into Mather Campground.

Nature walk in p.m. Overcast evening, stormy looking over canyon, with interesting patches of sunshine break-through. Hard rain much of the night. Coyote yelping in camp. Forest here is Ponderosa, Utah juniper, pinyon. Understory of Gambel's Oak, Cliffrose (Cowania), Fernbush (Chamaebatiaria)

Friday, June 8. Rode shuttle bus out West Rim, picnic lunch at Hopi Point. Watched sunset at Yakai Point.

Saturday, June 9. Hiked down Bright Angel Trail with family to first rest house and return, 3 miles. Descends thru Kaibab limestone, Toroweap formation, cliff-forming Coconino sandstone. Hermit shale, and to Supai sandstone, the latter with many layers in evidence.

Plants enroute:

Pricklepoppy, Argemone

Tragopogon, Goatsbeard

Elder, Sambucus

Clematis

Hophornbeam, Ostrya

Common Hoptree, Ptelea, with odor

Serviceberry, Amelanchier

Fremont's Barberry, Berberis

Snowberry, Symphoricarpos

Hymenoxis acaulis

Fendlerbush, Fendlera

Lesquerella, Bladderpod

Yucca, with filaments on leaf edges

Agave, with teeth

Paperflower, Psilostrophe, notable composite with 4 broad rays and small center, petals later persist becoming papery

Phlox grayi, Gray's phlox, pink

Phlox austromontana, white

Erigeron, fleabane

Cryptantha, Bristly hidden flower

Lupine, Lupinus

Verbena

Eaton's Penstemon, Penstemon eatoni, bright red

Thickleaf Penstemon, P. pachyphyllus

Evening - watched sunset at Hopi Point. Ice cream for Jane's birthday afterward.

Sunday, June 10. Hiked, without family, on ranger tour down Kaibab trail to Cedar Ridge in a.m. Picnic with family and browsed stores in p.m. Ranger talk in evening. Coyotes heard every night.

Monday, June 11. Drove to Mesa Verde through Navajo Reservation and desert. Lunched at Baby Rocks, n.e. of Kayenta. Stopped at Four Corners Monument, and made camp at Mesa Verde. This campground seldom fills. Open campground in Gambel's oak, shrub forest. Many deer in campground, couple dozen.

Tuesday, June 12. Toured Cliff Palace, Balcony House, Spruce Tree House, Visitor Center.

Wednesday. Toured Wetherhill Mesa on bus and minibus. Long House and Step House. Gopher (=Bull) snake, 4' long, at trailer restroom.

Prominent flowers:

Arrowleaf = Balsamorhiza, Balsamorhiza sagittata, a sunflower like composite.

Fendlerbush, Fendlera rupicola, 4 white-clawed petals

Globe mallow, Sphaeralcea coccinea

Lupinus ammophilus, Sand loving Lupine

Astragalus

Chokecherry, Prunus virginiana

Blue flax, Linus lewisii

James Beardtongue, Penstemon jamesii

Utah juniper

Pinyon pine

Eaton Penstemon, Penstemon eatoni

Mahonia repens

Serviceberry, Amelanchier utahensis

Yarrow, Achillea

Towhees in camp, many ravens throughout trip, a few jays, few warblers, magpies

Thursday, June 14, drove home over Wolf Greek Pass.

June 20-22. Backpacking to Brown's Lake. Drive to Pingree Park area. Road to Sky Ranch, Lutheran Camp, is good road, regularly traveled by sedans, road on to Comanche Reservoir is rougher, but sedans pass it. Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp draws from all over the country, a Minnesota group was backpacking when I was here.

Apparently there is undisturbed public access to Comanche Reservoir, despite a few no trespassing signs. Greeley owns the water, a man from Denver the land, who once intended a ski area, and seems on occasion to lock the gates. But Forest service may have now a right-of-way; in any case they mark the trails, put up trail registers, etc., as tho this was public access.

Parked at Comanche Reservoir, and hiked up trail. Windy, it had snowed here hard the previous day. Melted at this elevation, but a skiff remained on tundra. Hiked along reservoir and thru burned area. Met a geologist. This is metamorphic, e.g. biotite gneiss, hornblende gneiss, intruded, with more granitic rocks. Long Cabin Granite and Idaho Springs Granite are names commonly used, but area is not mapped in detail. He mapped Red Feather Lakes area, as Univ. Nebraska Ph.D. Now teaches at Southwest Missouri State College.

Large burned area, Comanche Burn, 1966. After that snow underfoot to Timberline and Browns Lake, but north side (south-facing) of Browns was clear and splendid campsite. Lovely cirque lake, especially pretty with the snow. Wind died down in evening.

Two porcupines, one large limping at rear foot, the other smaller. Two, maybe three snowshoe rabbits at very close range about the campsite. White feet very prominent yet, and the hair is grizzled, especially the ears, but brown, not far beneath to whiter hair. Feeding on willows. Wilson's warbler very active here. Robins. White-crowned sparrows. Western tanager seen earlier. Rosy finch-like bird, probably Pine Grosbeak. Many pipits. Audubon's warbler. Nuthatch, Clark's nutcracker, a flycatcher or pewee. Later & lower, a Coopers hawk, or Sharpie, swallows over the lake, probably Tree Swallow.

Lake froze over during the night, also my water jug froze about half inch thick,

Thursday, hiked up to Crown Point area, with difficulty owing to snow drifts. Found the cabin, with drifts to its roof, and spring, with many signs here. This would be good camp in season. Clearer from snow above timberline, and made the connection with where Giles and I walked several years ago. Returned and took the Flowers Trail west with difficulty until above timber, crossed high area n.w. of 11,454 foot point in section 4, and tried to make it to connect with where Tim Bartley and Steve Gies and I earlier hiked. Failed owing to deep drifts in the wood portion, often several hundred feet with no ground snowing and trail blazes too few. Returned to camp.

Friday, hiked out, and up to Comanche Lake. This lake is wooded, lower, and not much trouble getting in, though it is much less spectacular than Browns. Browns is very spectacular, including view of probably Signal Mountain to southeast.

Two persons were fishing on Comanche Lake, one with inflatable boat. Large fish seen in the shallow water. Big toad on way out.

June 25-27, 1979. Deadman to Sand Creek Pass. Prairie Divide Road.

Monday. Drove to Redfeather, on to Deadman. Some Balsam Poplar west of Red Feather. The drifts were gone west of Deadman; also this part seemed easier to drive round than last year, had the drifts been there. On toward Eaton Ditch Camp, but blocked by drifts a little short of it. In any case the road is blocked to 4WD by the ditch it soon crosses.

On foot northward, trail is double red blazed, old blazes but useful ones, becoming more frequently single red blazes as it runs north. Passed a crew surveying a road in for timber cutting. Came to widespread clear cut area, and found the way through here with difficulty. See reverse of Deadman topo. Followed the trail northward, but couldn't relate it to the topo map, to discover eventually that the trail does not run as shown. Camped on high ridge before the drop-off to the ditch and Sand Creek. Water here is from an uppermost tributary of Sheep Creek.

Footed out the balance of this after supper; party was camped above Sand Creek, not far from the end of this road. Porcupine at the ditch, bristled when I almost walked up on him. Deer in camp.

Tuesday, returned uneventfully, and then drove round on the road, unimproved, which follows parallel and west. Good sedan road as far as the timber people have rebuilt it, after that it is

rougher. One ford (the only one) a bit rough in high water. Drove up also on the timber road to reconnect with where I had earlier been.

Camped on the unnamed tributary of Sand Creek closest to the pass, a nice campsite. 8 deer, 4 antelope. Beaver in the creek. McGillivray's warbler, yellow-bellied sapsucker, yellow warbler, nuthatch, warbling vireo ?, evening grosbeak. Marmots.

Wednesday, drove home, rambling. The road up Beaver Creek, over to the Panhandle area as been rebuilt for lumbering, and would make a good exploration, perhaps packing through to Deadman Road, again here. Also a good day drive would be Diamond Peak, nearly to Wyoming, and some prowling here, perhaps to Deadhorse Mtn.

July 7-10, 1979. Rollins Pass & Devil's Thumb, with David Hampton.

Sat. a.m., left early, drove to Lyons, and then down and up Lefthand Canyon through Glendale and Rowena and to Ward. This is a fair to good blacktop, all but the last mile or so. It is difficult to find from Ward, and the obvious loop into Ward apparently does not take you there. You have to go on north and take a more inconspicuous loop down which leads lower, and onto this road. Continued south, stopping at a couple of old mines.

Proceed over Rollins Pass. The road was announced as closed, due to a rock slide and partial cave-in of the Needle Eye tunnel, but it was rumored that some 4WD were going through. Lunched. On reaching the tunnel a number of cars were there, several 4WD, and a van stuck in the tunnel.

A jeep pulled it out, and subsequently three large boulders were winched out and the roadway re-made enough to make it passable by 4WD and vans; some sedans later got through. Proceeded over the top, stopping to walk up to the unnamed summit where formerly was a radio beacon. Down the other side, interesting, but less interesting than the east side. Camped at vicinity of Arrow Tunnel (water).

Sunday, July 8. Spent the day, prowling, and in some frustration trying to get to Devil's Thumb Park. Explored a road, which proved good sedan road, along an aqueduct, buried, which gets water at various points in small check dams. This is as shown on topo, East Portal, secs. 35, 26, 23, 24, and continued north on 4WD into sec. 13 and 14. Further road north, shown on Arapaho NF Map not found, and turned west, down an unnamed northernmost tributary of Ranch Creek, short but rough 4WD, but joins a good sedan road, not shown on maps. Suspected that this might return into Fraser, but it proved to double back south and return us to a junction passed earlier.

Drove out and into Fraser. Drove East from Fraser on road on the line of sec. 17 and 20, which proved as shown as far as the Diamond Bar T Ranch. Afterwards rebuilt. Permission is given on sign to cross private land to get to government land. This road, built apparently to service water installations, crosses Ranch Creek twice, then heads north, crossing the unnamed tributary which we were earlier on, but a little west. Found this, and footed it up a road shown here to make the connection with where we were previously.

Drove north to find things confusing, the roads not as shown, nor the meadows. Eventually we found that you pass a water installation on Little Cabin Creek (the first one proceeding north), and shortly after this leave the sedan road, for a 4WD that leaves, turning right off the road. This is nearly to the top of a hill, at the tip of the hill the Devil's Thumb is visible. This road is



probably the one shown on the topo sec. 11, and is reasonably good 4WD, rough the last 1/4 mile, particularly in a ford.

Meanwhile we went north, getting confused, until I settled that I was on Hamilton Creek, and turned south again. As it eventually turned out, the 4WD into Devil's Thumb Park passes within sight of one of the water-installations I had scouted out from, thinking I was in the area, although from where I was the road cannot be seen. Camped in Devil's Thumb Park, a grand park. Owl in the night.

Monday. Hiked up Devil's Thumb Pass and to Devil's Thumb. Beavers have dammed the upper park and make it rough crossing, but we managed. Mosquitoes were bad in the timber. Good climb to the pass, and lunched on the summit. The trail into the Pass from the East seems to be not as shown on the topo, and would be almost impossible for a snowfield below the pass. It generally climbs a summit to the south, and seems to come north from that to the pass. Two cairns identify the entrance of the trail westward into the willows. Returned, packed up, and drove to Granby and Arapaho Bay on Lake Granby,

Tuesday. Scouted the Monarch Lake area, and Indian Peaks Trailhead. Well identified, and you should have no trouble starting from here. Drove over Trail Ridge Road. One cow elk near to the roadside, 27 elk in one group on Specimen Mtn, another group of 15 in Forest Canyon. But the highlight of this day was eleven bighorn sheep in Horseshoe Park, vicinity of Sheep Lakes, where they seem to come from time to time, but I had never seen them there before. Eight ewes and three lambs in the meadow, watched them perhaps half an hour, much too close to use binoculars. They crossed the road only a few feet away. No rams.

Aug. 7, 1979. Trail Ridge Road with family and Marc Bryant. Picnicked in evening lower down and drove up for twilight. About a dozen very large bucks on the tundra, seen at good range.

Aug. 17. Signal Mtn from Pingree Park. Left 8.00 a.m. from the newer trail head, developed to avoid private property. Good trail, double blazed, and had been recently worked over, new bridges and foot ways in soggy areas. This was after about a week of good rains, often hard rains, and the woods were steamy. Hiked up at good pace, and was on summit about 11.00 a.m. Cool there. Returned slowly, collecting mosses.

The mushrooms were really popping out, large and small ones, and some very good colors. This trail is no problem, has locators of one kind or another, turns or stream crossings every mile or so, and you know exactly where you are. Seems to be a lot of Dicranaceae and Dicranum in here. I collected mosses from the lower half, and this would still be a good trip, with Giles. Rain on the way out. 14 miles round trip, and I survived better than I thought I might.

August 24-26, 1979. Camp Dick, and Coney Creek hike, with Giles. Left Friday a.m. and set up camper about noon. No water system functioning here; got water at stables at Peaceful Valley. Stroll in afternoon in rain.

Saturday, hiked up Buchanan Pass Road, to Coney Creek junction, down to the main Valley, and return on valley road. I had been to Beaver Reservoir before on skis. There is a reasonably good WD road almost to the trail junction (where we lunched) but it is rough a little towards the end. I did not see all of it, as there is a division where vehicles and horses are routed one way and hikers another; then a rejoining of the two.

Later: done again Sept 10-12, 1999.

This is a ridge top road, seems to be a moraine. The topo map shows some bare areas, but these seem to earlier have been cut areas, now regrown with trees. Pass through a small area of private property, with access permitted. Gathered a Sphagnum moss at a pond a few feet sw. of road ne edge of section 21. There are many dried up ponds in here. Lunched at the trail junction, Beaver Creek Trail, with Buchanan Pass trail, and left grandfather (Long's) pocket knife gathering mosses here. Descend fairly steeply, on rougher 4WD road to the valley floor, and uneventful return.

Sunday a.m. Short hike up the north side of the Middle St. Vain, crossing on these large sleepers that remain from an auto bridge, and crossing back upstream on logs. Packed up and drove home, through a hailstorm.

July 30, 1979. Fantastic hailstorm, with hail stones to 5", like grapefruit, breaking car windshields and going through camper roofs. I was jogging and took cover under eave of dorm. One infant struck and later died, in mother's arms. Several arms broken in elderly persons. The second death ever recorded from hail.

Aug. 31. Emmaline Lake before Philosophy Dept. Retreat, Pingree Park. With Don Crosby and Jim Boyd. You can't drive in from Pingree Park Campus, so we went round to Bennett Creek Campground and in that way. Drove Scout over good but now and again a little rough 4WD to where the road crosses Fall Creek. We could have taken Scout to Cirque Meadows with no trouble. Walked to Cirque Meadows, and foot trail from there. Keep on the n.e side of the Meadows, and pass signs. Good trail until the upper reaches, where there are often multiple trails and bypass trails to campsites, etc., but it can be found without too much difficulty. Lunched at Emmaline Lake. Good weather, woods are fine from good rains in August. Return by 2.30 p.m.

Sept. 21-23. Sleeping Elephant Campground, with family in camper. Lovely weather and aspen, above Arrowhead Lodge. Aspen was much turned, yet still with much green, a nice combination. Frost both nights, but warm weather, little wind. Hiked up Big South trail several miles on Saturday, and lunched at riverside. Townsend's solitaire active in camp, very musical. There seems to be a trail up Sheep Creek, but Mr. Foote (he and Mr. Anderson married sisters) was reluctant to give permission for me to explore there.

Sept. 29. Bierstadt Lake, Cub Lake, The Pool, Fern Lake, and Bear Lake. With Frederick Churchill; Indiana University, Dept. of the History and Philosophy of Science. Lovely day in the aspen. On trail 10.00, out at 5.00. Delightful weather.

October 13, 1979. Ptarmigan trip to Rocky Mountain National Park with Shonny and Audubon Society. Left Forestry Building at 7.00 a.m., and went in State Wildlife Carryall to Toll Memorial on Trail Ridge Road. Trip leader, Dr. Clait Braun, who has worked with Ptarmigan for 10-12 years. Went to a residual snowfield north about half a mile. He snared a chick with a long, collapsible pole, and banded it, showing various features of the plumage in the process, also its habitat and feeding. Nine adults in and around the snow field; they were turning white, with some brown left, but preferred the cover of the snowfield as it offered better camouflage; although some were still brown enough to want to hide among the nearby rocks. Some, motionless, were almost impossible to detect.

The group scatters in summer and re-gathers in fall and winters together. There was the lowest



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reproductive success this year in twelve years, due to a late spring, and the banded chick may not have been hatched until August.

Another colony can almost always be found at the leftmost snowfield looking East from the Alpine Visitor Center. This is a sloping snowfield and they are at the bottom of it. A prairie falcon pair nested this season in a pothole in the side of the Lava Cliffs. This pothole is about mid way up, about midway in the left-right sweep of the cliffs, and in otherwise more or less open cliffside. I noted it, and it would be found again in later seasons.

Brown capped rosy finches seen. This finch is local to the central Rockies, especially Colorado, also Wyoming and New Mexico, and many persons have added it to their life list on Trail Ridge Road, among them Roger Tory Peterson, at Lava Cliffs. It is common within its rather small range. Also seen: pine grosbeaks.

A February or March field trip to Guanella Pass will take you to the ptarmigan in winter plumage, requires about 1 mile on snowshoes.

Oct. 18-21, 1979. New Orleans. Phi Beta Kappa trip. Saturday, on the Cotton Blossom sternwheeler, through the Harvey locks and up one of the bayous, though never far from civilization.

Sunday, Swamp Parade tour, JACCO tours, in the morning in the swamps and bayous, vicinity of Kramer, La., La Fourche swamp, on a small boat with a Cajun guide. Cattle egrets, many armadillos killed roadside. Later, drove by Laurel Valley plantation, c 1796 and ruined, with many workers (not slave) cabins remaining, a sugar cane plantation. I saw Oak Alley Plantation from outside, long alley of great overarching oaks, and then toured San Francisco Plantation, c. 1856. Thibodaus, and State College here. We crossed the Mississippi River on ferry and drove down river road on return. I ate Turtle Sauce Piquante at Cajun restaurant.

Dec. 21, 1979. With Dale Hein & Giles, up the Poudre River from Prospect Street crossing, on Audubon Christmas count. The weather had been mild the several previous days, but light snow had moved in and woods were pretty quiet. The most unusual birds to me were snipe, common here, all year round, and fox sparrow, large, double the size of others, and dark. Many geese, saw a hunter shoot one, and it fall from the air. Total about 15 species. This is a good area in the spring, much of it is city land, given by the gravel companies.