

Andrew and Kayce's trip to Anchorage, Alaska from Albuquerque, New Mexico with fieldwork in Yukon Territory

23 May 2011

Left Albuquerque NM around 5 p.m. driving MSB field truck. Arrived in Denver around 12 a.m., stayed at John Dembaski's house.

24 May 2011

Picked up Andrew Hope at Denver International Airport at about 11:00 a.m. Got groceries in Denver and headed north on Interstate 25. We drove into Wyoming and got gas at Cheyenne, WY. Saw lots of *Antilocapra americana* in Wyoming and Montana. Interstate 90 north of Sheridan was closed because of flooding, so we took U.S. Hwy 20/26 west from Casper to Shosoni, then Hwy 20 north to Hwy 310 west of Greybull, WY. We followed 310 into Montana and went westbound on I-90 west of Billings. At Whitehall, MT we took Hwy 69 north and got on Interstate 15 northbound at Boulder. We exited at Jefferson City, MT and drove into Helena National Forest. We found a place to park and slept in the truck; went to bed around 1:30 a.m.

25 May 2011

Got up at 6:00 a.m. and headed back to I-15 northbound. We stopped in Helena for fuel, then again in Shelby, MT. We arrived at the border crossing in Sweetgrass, MT at about 10:00 a.m. At the crossing they took all our information and asked a bunch of questions. Overall, it took about an hour and a half to get through immigration.

25 May, continued

We continued north on Hwy 4 through Lethbridge, then on to Calgary. From Calgary we took Hwy 1 west to Banff. Andrew ever so kindly paid the entrance fee (about \$20 Canadian) so we could drive through Banff and Jasper Parks. In the town of Banff Andrew got some native carved wall art and we got gas. There was a lot of large mammals near the road on the drive. One black bear, several elk, some white-tailed and mule deer. A smallish grizzly was grazing on the side of the road and two guys were out of their cars with large cameras on tripods. Initially they were probably 30 or 40 meters from the bear, but it was slowly grazing toward them. They didn't back up. I don't know how close it got, but we drove on when it was 20 meters or less from them. I hope the bear took a swipe at one of their cameras. We also saw some bighorn sheep in Jasper National Park. At the town of Jasper we took Hwy 16 east to Hwy 40 (Big Horn Highway) north towards Grande Cache, Alberta. We slept in the truck at a gravel pit just north of town off a side road going to the east, going to bed around 12:00 a.m.

26 May 2011, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon Territory

At about 6:00 a.m. we woke up. There was a cow elk at the edge of the gravel pit that watched us for a little bit then ran off.

Every thing in Grande Cache had been closed the night before so we went into town for fuel and coffee. The town appears to have a lot of ~~red~~ people that work in the mining or logging of the area. There were several mining sites along the road going north from Grande Cache. We followed Hwy 40 north to Grand Prairie then Hwy 2 west to Dawson Creek, British Columbia. At Dawson Creek we got on the Alaskan Highway. It was kind of exciting to officially be on the famous road going north and west. We drove the highway until we were just a little south of Teslin, Yukon.

Most of the drive was not very interesting for scenery. We saw a lot of wildlife along the road; elk, moose, deer, and black bears. The male elk and moose had small, velvet-covered antlers.

From Fort Nelson to Yukon we drove through beautiful provincial parks. In addition to the elk, moose, black bears, and deer we saw some Stone~~s~~ sheep (one nice ram and some ewes) and some wood bison. In Muncho Lake, well on the NE side of the road, across from the lake was a large boulder field and glacial delta. A least chipmunk ran across the road heading towards the rocks.

26 May, continued; Yukon Territory

We stopped in Watson Lake for fuel then continued toward Teslin, YK. Between the British Columbia border and Teslin we found a gravel pit on the east side of the highway and set up camp there. At about ~~9:30~~ 9:30 p.m. (Pacific time) we set out 120 Sherman traps, mostly along the outer edge of the gravel pit. There was a small pond that had formed in the pit. The area appeared to be used a lot for target practice. There were shotgun and rifle shell casings all over the ground as well as a shooting bench.

There ~~was~~ a pair of ducks in the water, maybe golden eyes? After we set the traps we had a few beers and talked for a bit.

About an hour after the traps were set we heard one near camp close. We went and retrieved our first catch, a deer mouse. Went to sleep around 12:00 a.m.

It was an exciting day to see all the wildlife and scenery, as well as my first time to both British Columbia and Yukon. The sun did not set until late, and there was still some light when we went to bed, but not enough to read by. On the drive I saw a red fox on the side of the road and a porcupine in a willow. We saw black bears, ~~the~~ moose, and wood bison in B.C. and Yukon.

26-27 May 2011

Teslin Gravel Pit/Shooting Range

S of Teslin

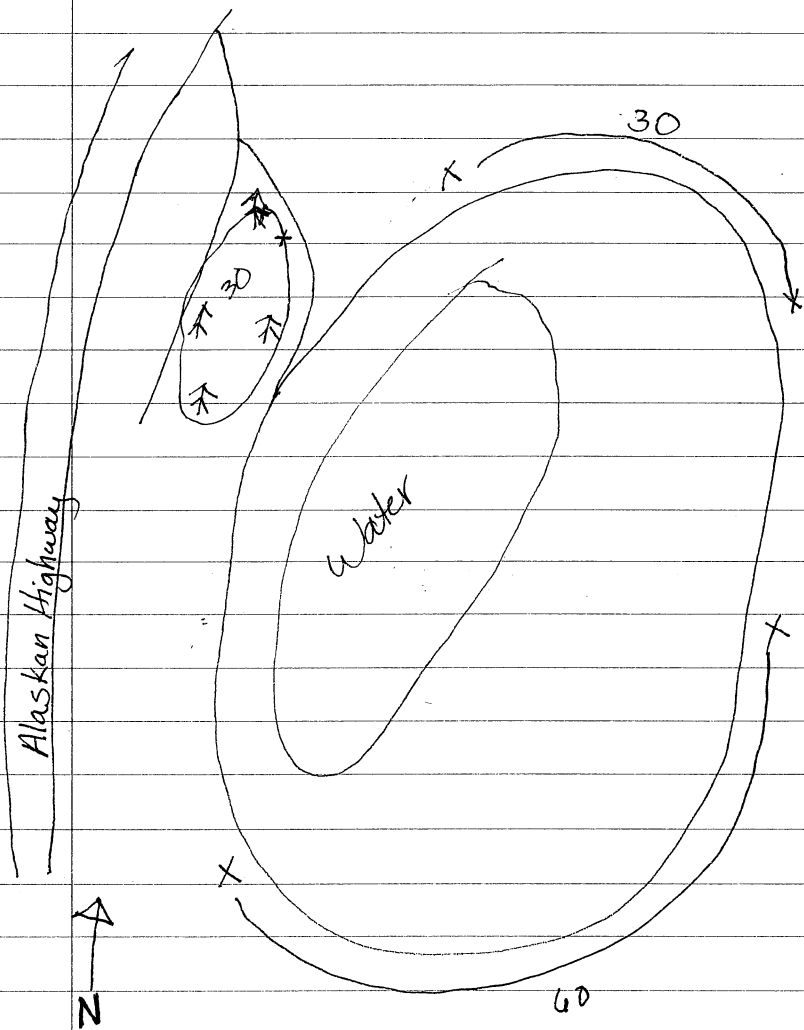
60.11102, -132.48116; 733m

26 May 10:30 p.m.

Set out 120 Sherman traps

90 around perimeter of pit

30 in area just off road



26 May 2011 Trap Site

Mixed pine/spruce forest around pit
with some water in it. Some aspen,
willow, and ground cover. 50-70%
closed canopy, open understory with
some downed logs and rocks.

11:30 p.m. caught 1 Peromyscus maniculatus

27 May 2011

7:30 a.m. picked up traps.

30 Shermans near road = nothing

30 Shermans on North end = 3 Peromyscus maniculatus

40 Shermans around East = 9 Peromyscus maniculatus

TOTAL: 13 Peromyscus maniculatus

NK 214001-214013

27 May 2011, Yukon Territory

We got up around 6:00 a.m., made coffee, and picked up traps. I caught 4 deer mice and Andrew caught 9. We euthanized the animals and put them on ice. While we were packing up a man drove into the pit. His name was Juka (?) (Finnish) and ~~was~~ he works on birds. He asked if we had seen any greater yellow-legs. Apparently there was a pair nesting there last year. I did not know what he was talking about, but Andrew told him he had not seen them. Besides the ducks, we also heard thrushes the night before.

From the gravel pit we drove towards Whitehorse, stopping in Teslin. At Whitehorse we found the building Tom Jung and Kris Gustafson work in (10 Burns Rd, across from the airport). Tom was out until the following Monday and Kris was out for the moment. I left my number for Kris and we went to the library in town to check emails. Kris called back and we went to meet with him. He said our permit was in order, that chipmunks are really low density, and suggested some places to trap. He expressed some concern that we did not have bear spray. I did not tell him that my experience was that bear spray was not effective. He gave us a map that shows the First Nations Lands and we left. In Whitehorse we got groceries and fuel, then headed towards Fish Lake; north west of town. We took Fish Lake Road to a side road towards Louise Lake, checked out the area then drove up to Fish Lake.

27 May, continued; Near Fish Lake, Yukon

Fish Lake was still frozen over. The main gravel road to the lake was good, but the side roads around the lake were muddy and we could not find a site to trap. We saw Tamiasciurus hudsonicus (2 or 3) run across the road and at the lake we saw a Urocitellus parryii sitting on a stump. The area was sub-alpine forest and none of the deciduous trees (bushes) had leaves. We drove back down ~~to~~ to the southeast corner of Louise Lake. The road that goes along the lake stopped at a bridge that had collapsed. The bridge had crossed a small stream that flowed into the lake. We parked and set up camp there. We set out 120 Shermans then made dinner. There was a beaver lodge across the section of the lake we were on from where we camped. A pair of loons was on the lake and a lot of sandpipers were flying around. We saw a bald eagle fly by and perch at the top of a spruce. A Kingfisher flew overhead periodically. The area has lots of beaver sign, downed and knawed on trees. There is also a lot of red squirrel activity. After eating we walked over near the beaver lodge and set out 35 rat traps and 34 museum specials. We went back to the truck. Some people came down to fish, canoe, or drink beer, variously.

27 May, continued, Louise Lake

During the evening the beaver was out swimming around. We never saw it leave the water, it dove several times. I went to bed around 9:30, Andrew stayed up.

28 May 2011, Louise Lake, Yukon Territory

Got up around 7:00 a.m., checked traps, had coffee and breakfast. We picked up the snap traps on the other side of the lake before checking the Shermans. The snap traps had nothing, Andrew and I each caught a deer mouse. We went to pick up the traps around 10 a.m. I picked up all of my traps on the south end. Andrew was part way through picking his traps up when he saw a chipmunk. We went up there and set 32 Shermans and 12 rat traps in that area. Then we went back to camp and waited until noon. Andrew worked on his paper and I caught up on field notes. While I was sitting there a red squirrel ran in front of me then sat on one of the bridge beams for a minute or so before running off. It had a cone in its mouth. At noon we picked up the traps, no captures. The site was a mostly spruce forest with some understory structure. Across the creek from camp was a very large rock field, it

28 May, continued

looked like a man-made scrape or something. Where Andrew saw the chipmunk was at the top of the south east side of the rock field, along a kind of bluff with some rocks and very small spruce.

After picking up traps we packed up and went into Whitehorse. Andrew emailed his manuscript to his coauthors and I got water at the Visitor's Center. The Canadian Tire on the west end of 2nd Avenue also had a place for drinking water.

We headed west along the Alaska Highway towards Haines Junction. I called John Demboski to ask about the site he collected chipmunks. It was a gravel pit on the north side of the highway, east of Pine Lake, 14 miles east of Haines Junction (according to the record and John's memory). We found a gravel pit at the correct longitude, the latitude was about 0.2° south of the record.

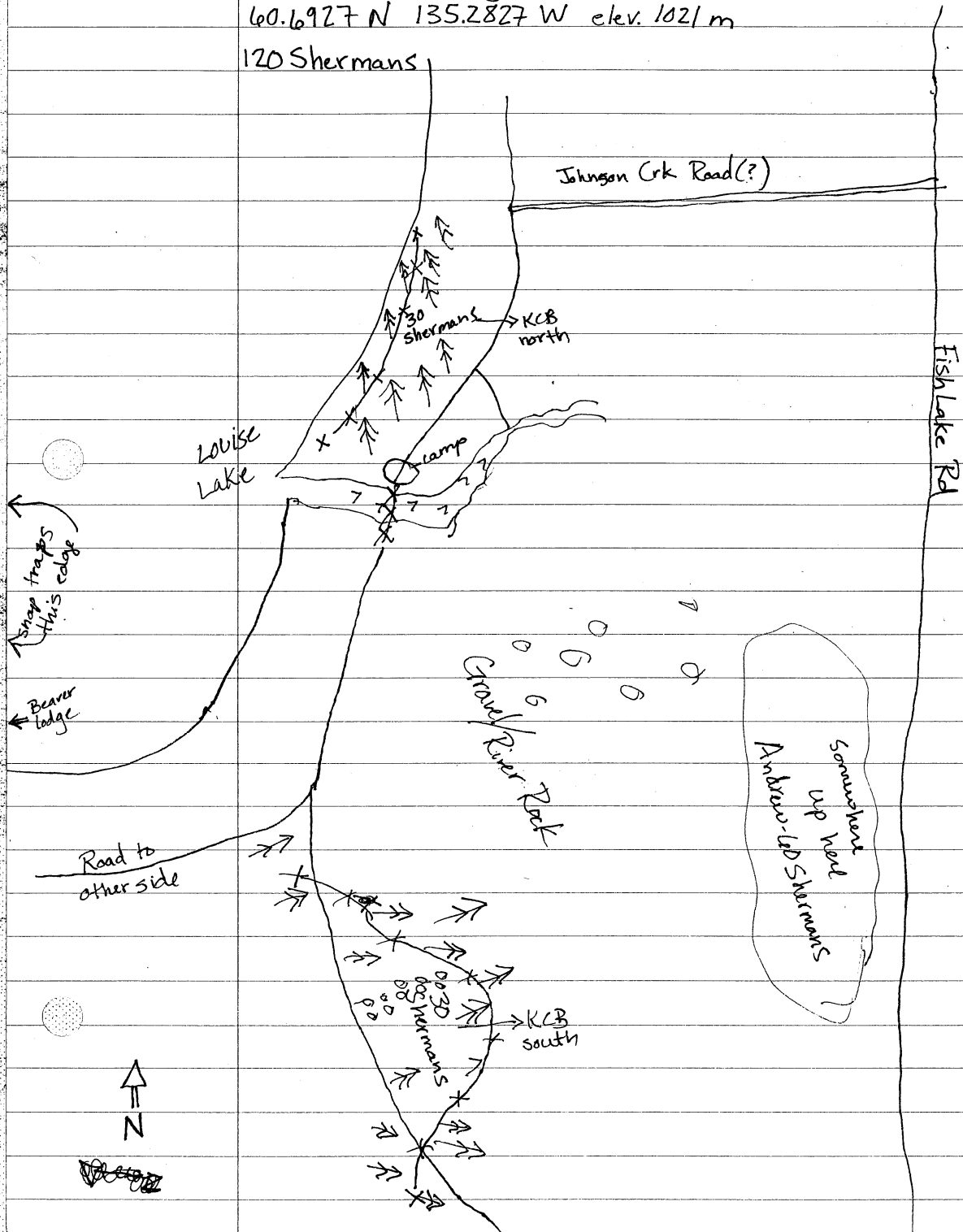
Around the gravel pit was grassy with small aspen. We also checked out some other areas east of Haines Junction. One was a very large gravel pit with several distinct "sub" pits. There was a man there

27-28 May 2011

Canada; Yukon Territory; South ~~east~~^{west} corner of Louise Lake

60.6927 N 135.2827 W elev. 1021 m

120 Shermans



27-28 May SW corner Louise Lake
27 May - Traps set around 3 p.m. (Shermans)

~~28 May -~~

27 May - Set 35 rat traps and 34 museum specials
on other side of that portion of the lake
(where the beaver lodge was) ~ 7:00 p.m.

28 May - 7:00 a.m. checked traps

2 Peromyscus maniculatus NK 214014 ; NK 214015

- 1 on Andrew's line

- 1 on KCB south line, 1st trap, ~~near~~ near road,
under a spruce tree

28 May - 10:00 a.m.

- Started to pick up traps (I picked up all of
KCB south line), Andrew saw a chipmunk
near the end of his line so we set about
32 Sherman and 12 rat traps in the area.

28 May - 12:00 p.m.

Picked up all the traps.
No Captures

28 May 2011, continued, near Haines Junction.

with his dog, driving away. We asked him if he knew of chipmunks in the area. He said he had just walked his dog along the top of the gravel pit and did not see any. He seemed to think it was too early in the season. The best potential site there was on the west end, with a small bit dug out. We also drove down a road around the west and north sides of ~~the~~ Pine Lake. It went to Pine Lake

Subdivision. There were a few rocky hills that looked like great chipmunk habitat, but they were all near houses, at least within a kilometer, and we cannot trap within one kilometer of residences.

We decided to try for the locality records along Haines Highway (Yukon Hwy 3) south out of Haines Junction. At the recorded latitude for the Dezedeash Lake record there was a grassy area with some alders surrounded by somewhat dense spruce with aspens. We kept driving south. There were very few places to turn off the road to the east and the west side of the road is all Klwan National Park. We could not find the locality just north of the British Columbia border, so at the border we turned around and went back north.

28 May, continued, South of Haines Junction.

Just south of kilometer marker 210, about 35 km south of the Haines Highway crossing the Dezedash River, is a gravel pit on the east side of the highway.

A side dirt road on the south side of the pit goes up to a flat, grassy area, probably about 100 to 150 m long and 50, or so, meters wide. At about 7:00pm we set traps. I set 103 Shumans along the north end of the clearing and into the forest on the east side. Andrew set 120 rat traps along the south west edge and into the forest on the south end.

On the north end are several large piles of logs. The forest is a very old burn, dominated by aspen 15-20 meters tall, mixed with some mature and some small (>1 meter) spruce. There are a lot of downed logs and some turned over stumps with the roots above ground.

The forest floor is covered with dead aspen leaves, some berries (crow + cranberry?).

Some areas have a lot of Labrador Tea, ~~between~~ up to 1 meter tall. On the south end, where Andrew set traps, the forest is a bit denser and has a lot more spruce. It also has red squirrels.

28 May 2011, 35 km south of Haines Jet, continued

We set up camp in the southwest corner of the clearing. There is a lot of evidence of voles in the grass (runways, winter nests).

We saw and heard a few so I set ²⁰ ~~20~~ museum specials, one right outside a hole I saw a vole run in and out of. We went to bed around 10:00 or 10:30 p.m., the sun had set and it was cooling off but still light enough to read. The mosquitos came out shortly before we went to bed and were annoying enough that I may put on mosquito repellent tonight. In the evening we heard a grouse (probably ruffed) booming. It was still booming when I went to bed. We heard some thrushes singing, the only birds I saw that I could identify were flickers and robins.

The habitat is not what I would consider ideal chipmunk habitat, but it is probably the best I have seen in the area, that we can access.

The shores of Dezeddash Lake (that we saw) did not look very promising, nor did any of the habitat to the south. There were swans in the lake swimming near the shore.

35 km
29 May 2011, S of Haines Junction

7:30 a.m. we got up. I checked the museum specials, one pregnant Microtus pennsylvanicus. Then I checked the Shermans, I caught 4 Peromyscus maniculatus and 3 Myodes g. rutilus. The voles were in the areas with a lot of Labrador tea, except one was on a mossy mound near a wood pile, right outside an active burrow. Andrew caught one Peromyscus maniculatus in a rat trap.

went to town before setting rat traps

We processed the animals, then set more rat traps. Andrew set 30 near the wood piles in the gravel pits and along the edge. I set 30 along the west edge of the gravel pit. It is mostly tall aspen with grass, some hills and a little understory structure.

Then we went into Haines Junction to get food and water. After we processed the morning's animals (before we set the rat traps) we checked traps again. Andrew caught one Myodes rutilus and I caught nothing. For parasites; we recovered some fleas and the vole had pinworms. The Peromyscus did not have any endos and the Myodes (3 of 4) had cestodes in the small intestine.

After we got back from town we set the rat traps. It rained for about 20 minutes around 5:00 p.m. Not very hard but the ground was wet.

28-30 May 2011

Canada; Yukon Territory; S of 210 km marker on
Haines Highway; 35 km S of Haines Junction
60.5145, -137.0187; elev. 728m

28 May ~ 7:00 p.m.

-KCB set 2 lines of 40 Shermans; 1 line of 23 Shermans
on north and east sides of open area

-AGH set 3 lines of 40 rat traps on SW corner
and S end of grassy area
-20 museum specials in grass near camp

29 May ~ 8:00 a.m.

KCB - 1 Microtus pennsylvanicus NK 214016

6 Peromyscus maniculatus NK 214018-214023

3 Myodes rutilus NK 214024-NK 214026

AGH - 1 Peromyscus maniculatus NK 214017

11:00 a.m.

AGH - 1 Myodes rutilus NK 214027

3:00 p.m.

-AGH set ³⁰ ~~50~~ rat traps in gravel pit; KCB 30 rats on edge

5:00 p.m. - KCB 1 Myodes rutilus NK 214028

7:00 p.m. - AGH set 50 museum specials near pond, KCB set
20 more museum specials in grassy area and 15 Shermans
between west side of grass and hill (steep bank) above pond.

30 May ~ 7:00 a.m.

KCB - 1 Myodes ~~gambelii~~ rutilus NK 214037-214038

3 Peromyscus maniculatus

AGH - 1 Microtus oeconomus NK 214029

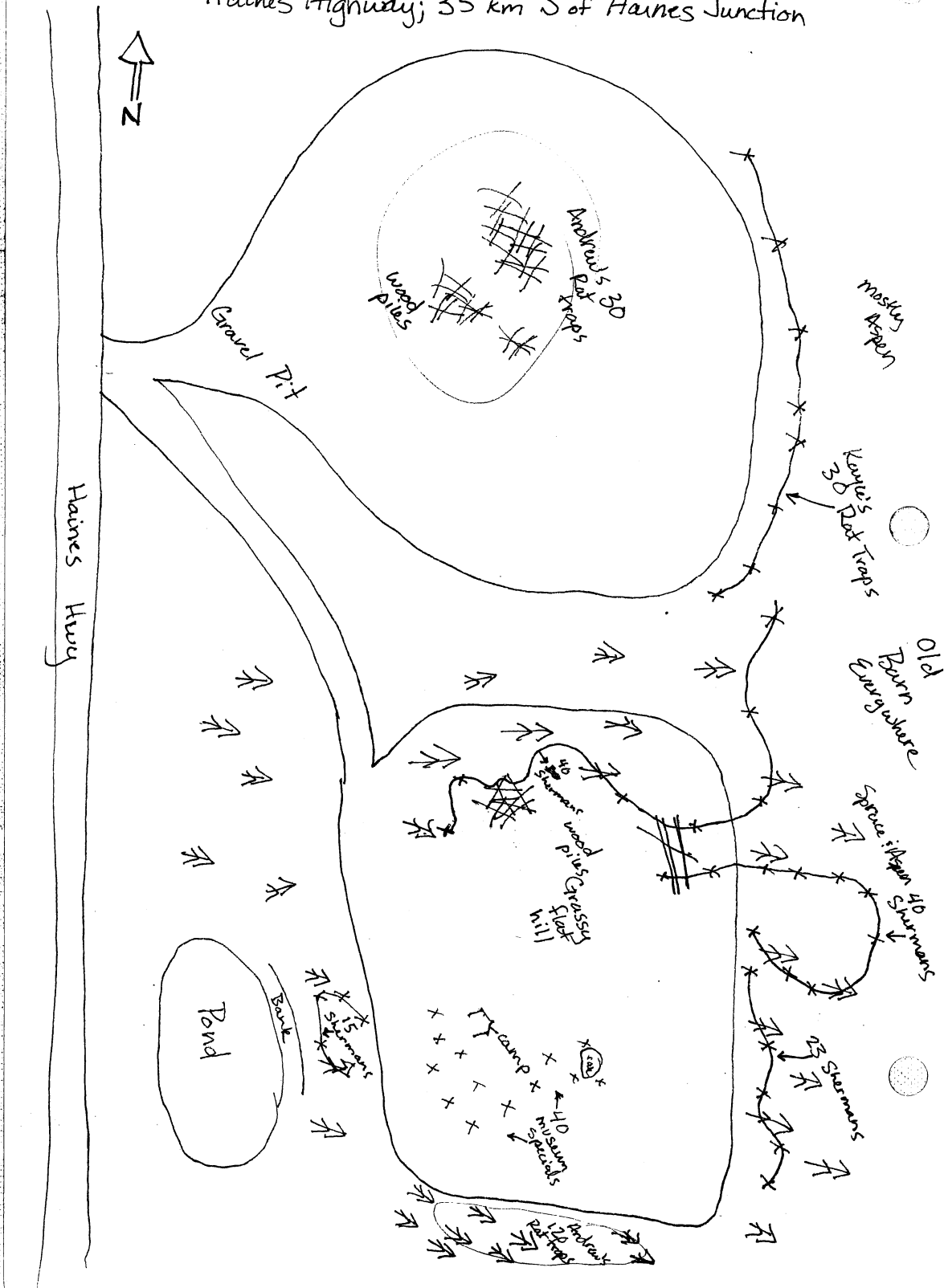
1 Myodes rutilus

4 Peromyscus maniculatus

NK 214030-214036

11:00 a.m. - pulled all traps, No Captures

28-30 May 2011
Canada; Yukon Territory; S of 210 km marker on
Haines Highway; 35 km S of Haines Junction



29 May 2011, continued, S of Haines Jct.

At 6:00 p.m. we checked all the traps. I caught one Myodes rutilus on the east side of the meadow in the forest, Andrew did not catch anything.

After checking traps Andrew set 50 museum specials in a grassy and willow area near a pond west of the camp site, near the road.

I set another 20 museum specials in the grass around camp then 15 Shermans between the grassy ^(camp) area and the pond.

The habitat there is mostly small spruce with some aspen and some downed logs. That area looks pretty good for chipmunks. Then we processed the Myodes, labeled tubes for the next day, then had dinner.

We went to bed around 10:30.

30 May 2011; Yukon Territory; 35 km S of Haines Junction

Got up around 7:00 a.m. and checked traps and picked up the museum specials. I caught one Peromyscus in a rat trap on the east side of the gravel pit and 2 Peromyscus and 1 Myodes in the Sherman set along the north and east side of the grassy area.

Andrew caught a Microtus oregonus (?) in a museum special near the pond and 1 Myodes and 4 Peromyscus in rat traps.

We processed those animals (NK 214029-214038) then began packing up and I made the species list for the export permit.

30 May 2011, Yukon Territory, continued

At 11:00 a.m. we picked up all of the traps, no captures. We loaded up the truck and went into Haines Junction. I had tried to call the local conservation officer, Russel Osborne, but the cell phone service was not very good. As we got closer to town I called and no one was in the office (~~it~~ it was after 12, they were at lunch). We went back at 1:00 and completed the Yukon export paper work. Then we headed towards Alaska.

The weather was nice. Once we got past Kluane Lake we saw some big moose on the side of the road. We had no problems at the border crossing, they processed the paperwork quickly. We got to Tok around 6:00 p.m. (Alaska time) and then got to Louise Lake road, just past Glenallen for the night. Right before we got to Tok a caribou jumped out in front of us, but fortunately Andrew avoided hitting it.

31 May 2011, Alaska

At about 7:00 a.m. we got up and headed towards Anchorage. We stopped at the Matanuska glacier and spent about 2 hours walking around.

Right near Sheep Mountain we saw some white spots on the hill side, which I believe were Dall's Sheep.

We arrived in Anchorage around 2 p.m.

The specimens and tissues were left in the UNM truck, to be returned later by Joe, or with the specimens from the Southeast Alaska crew at the end of the summer.