

## Preliminary report of a new Pleistocene vertebrate fauna from Barber County, Kansas.

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During August and November of 2001 field parties from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Conservation and Survey Division and the Sternberg Museum of Natural History recovered a new vertebrate fauna from unnamed alluvial terrace deposits along Big Sandy Creek in southwestern Barber County, Kansas, about 48 km southwest of Medicine Lodge. The alluvial terrace is mapped as Nal2 or Qal2 on the geologic map of Kansas and consists of four to five meters of consolidated and unconsolidated reddish-brown to brown crossbedded sands, crystalline conglomerates, and lithic gravels along 2 km of continuous exposure. This terrace overlies Permian siltstone redbeds of the Nippewalla Group, and contains many exhumed and redeposited concretions from the underlying redbeds. Fossil vertebrate material recovered so far is generally well-preserved and includes: 1) a poorly-preserved skull (including well-preserved upper toothrows) and fragmentary postcranials of a large horse (*Equus* sp.); 2) postcranials, isolated teeth, and a maxillary with teeth of a small camel (*Hemiauchenia* sp.); 3) an edentulous mustelid jaw; 4) a partial carpometacarpus of an undetermined falconiform bird; 5) tortoise carapace, and 6) turtle carapace. We have named the assemblage the Big Sandy Creek local fauna (after the nearby creek) and have assigned the fauna a Pleistocene age based on the presence of *Equus* sp. We thank the landowner, Mr. George Piersall, for permission to study the site and its fossils.