

Lawrence, Univ. Kansas, Douglas Co., Kansas

Oct 14, 1948

The *Reithrodontomys* of Oct 8 observation (see notes of that date) was chloroformed at 8:00 A.M. wt at this time 6.6 gms and measured 135-62-17-12-6.6 gms. Skin prepared by Philip Krutzsch no 729.

approx 870 ft,

307 W and 23rd St., Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas.

Oct 15, 1948

The last two days great numbers of the following, in composite groups, have been visiting the fields just south and west of the trailer at Carl Strakes residence.

*Agelaius phoeniceus*

*Molothrus a. ater*

*Sturnus v. vulgaris*

At periods when these birds are not disturbed, they are formed into a compact flock and move about the fields like a serpent but never losing their composite flock formation. If they move from the field entirely, they leave together and form a long continuous line of  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles and 100 feet in width. This line represents a bald front line at times but usually is a trailing line of undulating dips. As they move about the field the rear section of feeding birds leave the ground and move up to the front of the group. This is perpetual motion and moves the flock progressively forward; however, in areas of good feeding, there is a tendency for these birds to remain static. As these birds frequently fly by at 70-80 feet it would be possible to knock them out of the sky. It is interesting to note that the three species have synchronized their maneuvering movements. At certain movements when a group would rise, the entire sky was black as if a dark piece of canvas had been thrown into the sky. These sudden movements were always accompanied by a wing sound, some of the noise made by the wings of one bird touching the wings or body of another bird. Estimation of numbers of birds was difficult. The following seemed most accurate. Several cards were covered with dots of different concentrations and then these were compared with the actual concentration of birds seen in the field of the binoculars of birds observed at a known distance. As these birds flew from one field to another, the

