

Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

Oct 15, 1967

at 1620 Tenn. St. and viewing skies to the E, noted an unusual movement of chimney swifts. From 11:00 A.M. when observations were first made, to late twilight the chimney swifts moved NE into winds from the N.E. Day with high overcast of clouds moving with considerable speed. Rain in morning and day cool. From 2 to 10 or so swifts were nearly always in sight and the procession lasted all day. During the day they flew high (approx 800') and in evening moved to lower elevations of about 100' above trees. The last ones flew just above top of trees and some below level of tree tops. At 6:50 P.M., at a time when the colored light left the upper layers of clouds, the last swift left the skies. This behavior of flying high and then moving to lower levels before moving into roosting positions, is a characteristic pattern. At 6:55 P.M. 4 night hawks flew S. At 7:00 P.M. a large flock of ducks (mallards?) flew S in rapid flight. Temp at this time 56°F.

This afternoon noted a gray squirrel chase a fox squirrel and succeeded in removing it from the area without challenge from the fox squirrel, although the latter was considerably larger. At 6:30 a fox squirrel started to carry green leaves into a <sup>dry twig</sup> nest ~~leaf~~ in a <sup>crotch of a</sup> walnut tree <sup>the nest</sup> some 40' above the ground. It made about 7 trips when a ♂ + ♀ gray squirrel approach nest and the male vigorously drove the fox squirrel from the tree. On two other instances this fox squirrel has been physically removed by being dislodged and falling 30'-40' to the ground. At 6:35 the gray squirrel started to carry leaves into the nest. The ♂ + ♀ frequently paused on limb 2 feet from nest where they scratched themselves. At one time they copulated and both (at 6:45 P.M.) retired to the nest and as far as I could ascertain, remained.

Oct 16, 1967

At 5:40 P.M. started observation of skies for chimney swifts and behavior of the fox + gray squirrels. Skies clear, slight wind from N and temp. 58°F. At 6:00 P.M. a fox squirrel arrived at the nest described in above account (Oct. 15). Keep record of nest construction. The squirrel made 32 trips to collect green leaves, each trip separated by an average of 10 seconds (6"-30") inside the nest where the leaves were being deposited. The following times represent the moment the squirrel arrived at the nest with the leaves: