

402 yorkshire (fused to n), Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas
 Oct. 30, 1976

Walked over to roosting site of blackbirds (See Oct 24, 1976) and stood by juniper tree in field some 250' from part of roosting birds. Observed from 6:25 until 7:00 P.M. Skies cloudy & no sun set. At 6:25 some birds arriving but flock mainly stabilized except from birds that are shifting from one part of the roosting site to another. This movement looks like morning birds but is only readjustment movements within the roosting area.

6:40 noticeable reduction of calls. The main call is a flowing constant chatter of the grackles & redwings and another chirp call of perhaps another species. Redtail still active but lights fading.

6:45 Calls reduced 60%

6:50 Calls reduced 95%

6:52 Calls reduced 98%

6:55 Calls reduced 99% (cannot read notes because of fading lights). The only call is a ~~base~~^{weak} chatter that is almost inaudible and a few chirp calls which are the last to go.

7:00 P.M. Only a faint suggestion of calls.

The birds during the reduction of call are settled in the trees and there is only occasional adjusting of flying birds. The birds are mainly in ~~some~~ final roosting position which averages 3 feet from top of tree and 6 feet from the base of tree, however some birds roosted on uppermost branches and some as low as 4 feet. The original estimate of 1 bird per cubic foot is too conservative as in many cases 3 or even 4 birds would occupy a cubic foot of space. Leafless elms were most ~~heavily~~^{densely} occupied.

When I left at 7:00 P.M. I walked across the open field approx. 250 feet from the N-S line of trees without soliciting movement or sound from the birds. Standard time. Temp approx 44 at 7:00 P.M. and at 10:30 P.M. 38°F.

Oct 31, 1976

Heard birds at least 7:15 A.M. and some individual robins moving out from roost. Day clear, temp. 33°F. At 7:25 birds in tree tops and they started to move in flocks mainly to the ESE and SE. From this time 7:25 (standard time) until 7:45 A.M. they moved out in continuous flight with some group formations. They stopped abruptly at 7:45 A.M. and there was no further flights or birds in the roosting area. I would estimate there were from 24,000,000 to 28,000,000 and about the maximum I have witnessed here. At one time a group of a thousand or so alighted ~~on~~^{on} the