

402 Yorkshire Dr., Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

Jan. 14, 1979

Activity at feeder: 7:15 A.M. 4 tree sparrows, 1 bluejay, 7:30 full complement of birds including 70 Eng. sparrows, 5 tree sparrows, 1 ♀ cowbird, 1 ♀ redwing blackbird (first this winter), 2 bluejays, 1 white-crowned sparrow (came in late yesterday), 3 starling, sun up 7:50, sun on house 7:55 but not on bush (top of bush at 8:20 A.M.). Temp this morning at 7:00 = -8°F, ^{slight wind from N.} no wind, clear skies. The birds this morning are fluffed and occasionally bill under wing (overtop) except when feeding and then on their bellies. Yesterday with temp 7°F and snow blown winds to 5 P.M. with a wind index more than -35°F, the birds were very active and less fluffing of feathers than birds this morning, so intrinsic temp. is more controlling than wind chill temperatures. This morning the birds are noticeably awkward in the bush with poor balance and inability to grasp limbs. Birds are in top of bush in sun. 8:30 first sun on feeder. An adult ♀ Eng. sparrow approached a ♀ cowbird and grabbed and held on to the ^{end of the} tail of the cowbird and pulled it from its perch. They both dropped a foot and a half with the sparrow maintaining its hold on the tail. As the cowbird grabbed another limb the sparrow relinquished its hold. Measured a non feeding period 8:45-9:00, a feeding period from 9:00 to 9:20 and beginning of another feeding cycle at 9:35. Before the feeding cycle 6 Eng. sparrows left bush and flew 100 feet to top branches of a 30' high tree and after 5 seconds all flew upward and eastward out of sight. This same thing happens regularly, the last group ^{of 6} left from different parts of the bush and flew to the top of the same tree before leaving to the east. As they leave the tree they forcefully gain altitude and all keeping within a dispersed area of 100 feet width in contrast to departure as a compact group. This is in contradiction to protective behaviorism of travelling in compact group for security. Last Eng sparrow left feeder 5:15. Last tree sparrow at 5:25 P.M. No meadowlarks today.

Lake View, Douglas Co., Kansas

Jan 14, 1979

Drove out into river valley beyond Lake View to check meadowlarks. None observed entire route where the day before yesterday before the storm they were unusually abundant on shoulder of roads. Noted a male mallard in middle of road. It flew 200' just above the snow and alighted on snow bank with outstretched wing and completely exhausted. Snow fields (all slopes) ~~deep~~ deeply sculptured by wind, looks like badland. I have never seen such sculpturing in the area before.

402 Yorkshire Dr., Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

Jan. 15, 1979

Birds arrived at feeder as usual, the tree sparrows 15 min. before the ^{Eng.} sparrows