

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

Oct. 28, 1979

Observed flight of blackbirds (grackles, robins, few starlings, few redwings and maybe some redwings) morning sky clear, temp. 33°F. The movement was between Iowa + Yorkshire streets but mainly 1/10 mi E of Yorkshire. Birds started flight at 6:30 A.M. 6:32 masses with birds about 2-3 feet apart and thousands in sky. main movement 6:33 to 6:40. Sun up 7:47 and only a few in air at that time. up to 2 or 3 minutes after sunrise. Approx. 30 grackles and 10 robins in backyard having stopped along the way.

Oct 29, 1979

Temp. 36°F.

Blackbirds began morning flight at 6:27. Some of first flight alighted in backyard, others stopped later. Few flocks to 6:30 then between 6:30 and 6:34 of hundreds of thousands, 6:40 some flocks but fewer individuals. Sun up 7:50. no birds after sunrise. End flight 6:47 A.M.

Oct. 29, 1979

no goldfinches at feeder between September thru October.

Oct. 30, 1979

First group of blackbirds 6:37 A.M. Cloudy, wind 10 MPH. First group 150 birds, then no birds next minute then ^{main mass} birds between 6:38 and 6:49. 6:42 500 in 30 sec. 6:45 1000 in 20 sec. 6:47 sky full and one group. Total birds this A.M. approx 1000,000. Each time on outward flight some birds alight in trees and move into back yard. One bird, ^{grackle} must have been poisoned. It could not fly in predetermined direction and would fly out of tree and land on ground below. It could not balance itself on the ground.

Oct 31, 1979

First goldfinch at feeder (♂ and 2 imm.) and a female. The female fed on feeder but the two young remained on branches 2 feet away and fluttered their wings. After ♀ fed for 3 minutes it flew to one of the two young and in 4-3 contacts emptied its mouth of thistle seed. The other young did not receive seeds at this visit to feeder. The young displaced Eng. sparrows when the sparrows came too near the feeder. The Blackbirds (grackles and ^{some} robins) are more numerous around the yard than on previous days and reflect the numbers of birds in the general area of Lawrence. 600 in all. Temp. 44. There have been large flocks of grackles on golf course (4:50 P.M.)