

Funker
APRIL 14, 1984

TOM KENT
FIELD EDITOR,

✓ BETWEEN THE DATES OF MARCH 27 AND
APRIL 9, WE HAVE HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE
TO BE LIVING IN THE MIDST OF WOODCOCK'S
AERIAL DISPLAY STAGING AREAS. WE HAVE ALWAYS
LIVED HERE AND ARE GLAD THAT THEY CAME
TO US.

WE LIVE IN LOESS HILLS, BUT IN A COMPLETELY
UNKEMPT STATE. THE MAJORITY OF THE TREE
SPECIES ARE COMPRISED OF SIBERIAN ELM &
BUR OAK.

WHEN THEY ^(WOODCOCKS) FIRST ARRIVED, ISOLATED
SNOW BANKS DOTTED THE LANDSCAPE. WE HAD
1" OF FRESH SNOW AND SEVERAL INCHES
OF RAIN DURING THE TIME PERIOD. IT WASN'T
FOR FOUR DAYS AFTER I HEARD THE FIRST
WOODCOCK THAT I SAW EARTHWORM CASTINGS.

THE BULK OF THE WOODCOCK'S ACTIVITY TOOK PLACE 1 HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE AND ABOUT 1-1½ HOURS AFTER SUNSET.

BECAUSE OF POOR LIGHT CONDITIONS AT THESE TIMES, THE FIRST INDICATIONS OF THE BIRDS WAS THE LISPING, RASPY BUZZ HEARD FROM THE UNDERBRUSH. TWO-THREE MINUTES LATER A MUSICAL WING WHISTLE TOLD US THE BIRD WAS AIRBORN. ONCE IT WAS ABOVE THE HORIZON AND IN THE DIRECTION OF THE LIGHTED PORTION OF THE SKY, YOU COULD SEE A BALL WITH WINGS SPIRALING UPWARDS.

IT WAS HARD TO KEEP THEM IN SIGHT BUT A COUPLE OF TIMES I SAW ONE BREAK OUT OF THE SPIRAL AND "TWEEDLE-DEE-DEE" ITS WAY BACK DOWN ON ITS BUTTERFLY WINGS.

THE MOST I HEARD AT ONE TIME WERE 2 AND THAT'S NOT A COMPLAINT.

LARRY K. FARMER
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