

SOME SWALLOWS STOPPED BY TODAY! ©

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida – September 16, 2023

As I have proclaimed many times before this, as the pace of my life has slowed down just a bit as I approach my 80th birthday, I completely enjoy spending time on my screened-in pool deck wondering just what new miracle of nature will present itself to me this time!? As a hobby of mine, I have written about many of my past observations, of which there have been many. So, here is what I witnessed today.

Initially during a 45-minute stay on my pool deck, nothing unusual was observed – simply the routine sightings of a few airplanes overhead on their final approach to the Orlando Airport and some golfers charging down Kissimmee Bay Country Club’s 11th fairway in the sizzling heat. I also observed that our resident mocking birds have started singing again after their complete silence during their mating period and brooding of their offspring. All-in-all, this session of the time on my deck started out to be relatively quiet.

Then, seemingly out of nowhere, hundreds of barn swallows appeared and were diving and darting in all directions in an extremely impressive and remarkable in-flight feeding “frenzy”!. Oh yes, as I had learned some time ago, these swallows do most of their feeding in flight and they are agile almost beyond belief! As I observed these birds darting back and forth in all directions at impressive speeds, it was amazing to me that they didn’t have any “midair collisions” They did however contact my screened enclosure on numerous occasions without any apparent injuries.

After about 30 minutes, it seems these birds had completely eliminated the surroundings of all edible insects and then they were gone – obviously in search of more fruitful hunting grounds! I have seen this ritual before and it never fails to amaze me!



A miracle of nature? You bet!