

# GARDENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Grackle 72, you're clear to land at Feeder 4. Do you copy Grackle 72? ... Grackle 72, you're breaking up. Do you copy? You're clear to land at Feeder 4.

No, no, no, guys. I said Grackle 72 is clear to land at Feeder 4. Not 72 Grackles ... man! All incoming flights, please divert to a holding pattern until we can get some of these Grackles out of here.

Sparrows, listen up. You're going to have to stay in the Bougainvillea Hangar until the big boys leave. Can anybody tell me how many branches are still available at this time? ... Twelve, okay, good. Thanks.

Mourning Dove 31, you better do a temporary on the Shepherd's Hook. It's hard to tell how long the Grackles are going to stay.

Ground Dove 43, you better be careful. You know Grandpa Grackle there doesn't like anybody else on his block ... I know; you were there first, but I don't have enough staff to police every feeder, so it's every bird for himself. Also, be advised, the

vet isn't in yet ... Good choice, 43. The ground is a safer bet.

Okay, it looks like something spooked the Grackles because they just left in mass, but code 52 is still in effect. You know they can come back in thirty seconds in mass ... Okay, it appears like they've left the area, so all incoming, we've now lifted code 52.

Mourning Dove 31, you're clear for Saucer 6.

Blue Jays 1 and 2, the popcorn is all gone, but we still have some high-octane peanuts at Block Feeders 2 and 3. I wouldn't waste much time, though, you know they don't last long. Yeah, we'll have more tomorrow morning.

Sparrows, I would recommend that no more than six or so come out of the hangar at this time ... I know you're just little guys, but ... well, okay, I know you're fast, so go ahead at your own discretion.

Redwing Blackbirds 56 and 83, you're free to land at Hanging House 3. Yes, that's the one with the songbird special food ... I know, I'm just giving you a treat today. Just be courteous and don't flick too much of it on the ground ... Yeah, it attracts those fire ants. Good eating!

Flight above the Live Oak, I see you, but I can't quite make out who you are ... Well, hi ya, Red. I haven't seen you in a long time. Where have you been? ... A bug bonanza in the pine forest. Well, good for you. You wanna land? ... Yeah, it's been so long. Just give me a minute, I'm gonna have to look up your chart to see what we might have for you. Let's see here, Red-Headed Woodpecker, um ... okay, what's that? ... You don't mind some of the songbird special. Okay, yeah, it looks like Redwing Blackbird 56 has left Hanging House 3, so there's room for you there now ... Yeah, don't stay a stranger.

Incoming flock at eleven o'clock, can you identify yourselves? ... International Flock 89, Canadian Geese for a stopover ... Okay, not a problem. Just stay to your left and you'll see the water facilities at Cherry Pond. There is ample smooth rock space if you just want to rest and there are plenty of corn feeders around the pond ... We're always glad to see our friends from the north.

Attention all avian traffic! We have a Code 17 now in progress. Repeat, we have a Code 17 now in progress. Squirrel at Feeder Block 4. Repeat, squirrel at Feeder Block 4. We recommend all avian traffic stay on the west side of the garden at

Feeders 7 through 14 ... I know, Redwing 31. We have peanuts for him at Block 3, but sometimes he eats sunflower seeds first and then takes the peanuts and buries them ... How do I know, Redwing 28, I'm not a squirrel ... Will advise when the area is clear.

Go ahead, Hummingbird Red ... That's a roger. The helo fuel tank is full with Sucrose Red. You're clear to approach fuel station. There is a butterfly at Port 4, but all other ports are open ... Roger that, Hummingbird Red. Hummingbird Green can refuel as well.

Incoming flight at two o'clock, please identify yourself ... Lovebird Snowy ... Cool name, Snowy. Have you ever been here before, Snowy? ... Okay, Snowy, I'm going to have you land at the Celtic Dish Feeder ... Yeah, it's the tall one about thirty-six degrees to your right. Nobody there right now, so it'll give you a chance to get oriented ... Be advised, though, that there are Sandhill Cranes doing ground work at the west end of the property, so don't approach too low.

Attention all avian traffic! We have lifted code 17. The squirrel has left the premises ... Go ahead, Blue Jay 1 ... I don't know. Let me get some eyes on it. It looks like he wiped out the sunflower

seeds on Block Feeder 4 ... Right, it figures ... You're out on Block 6 and 7, too? ... I'll get it restocked by this afternoon ... Any peanuts left on Block 4? What do you think? ... Right, it figures.

Talk to me, Sparrow 1 ... You've got twenty more sparrows coming in? ... Okay, no problem. Just go wherever you see an empty spot. You do have about eight or ten, no that's twelve Ground Doves on the ground doing cleanup of seed that the Grackles flicked all over the place ... You get along okay with the Ground Doves? ... Okay, good.

(Siren Blaring) This is a warning to all avian incoming or already on the ground. We are in lockdown mode. Repeat, we are in lockdown mode. There is a cat in the field. Again, there is a cat in the field. All incoming traffic should remain in a holding pattern or seek shelter of a high fence or building. All birds on the ground should begin evacuating immediately per Emergency Protocol X. Go, go, go now!

Security Team Mockingbirds A and B, are you in position? ... You are clear to engage. Begin dive-bombing immediately.

Go ahead, Mockingbird A ... Mission accomplished. Area clear ... Super job, guys.

Attention all avian crews. We have lifted lockdown mode. Repeat, we have lifted lockdown mode.

Grackle 72, is that you calling? ... Yeah, you can come back as long as you don't have seventy-one more Grackles coming with you ... You don't have seventy-one more Grackles? ... Good ... What's that Grackle 72? You're breaking up. I'm getting an awful lot of background noise ... You have eighty-one more Grackles? ... NO, NO, NO, you have to wait for clearance ... Never mind.

Go ahead, Cardinal 1 ... No, they're gone. You got the Mrs. with you? ... You've pretty much got the place to yourselves with it being dusk and all ... Yeah, I missed you at dawn ... It was kind of windy. All right then, I'll see you at dawn tomorrow morning.

*As the orange sun slips down in the evening sky, another day in the life of an air traffic controller at Gardens International Airport comes to a close.*