

Pleasantville
50225

Feb 1976

Dear Vernon: - This has been the mildest and driest winter ever here in Iowa. In this area the first measurable snow of 1976 fell on Jan 26, only 2 inches. And it was the first snow since Nov 29, 1975. Ground is so dry, with wide cracks. Relieved by rain + first blizzard + first snow on Feb 21

I enclosed a piece of a map of Iowa to show you the distance between Rathbun and Red Rock. The ducks + Canadas played "hop-sotch" with the 2 Refuges this winter. We had open water on the Des Moines River and a few gravel pits in the Refuge all winter but most of Lake Red Rock was frozen over. However Rathbun was open all winter. The tail waters below Red Rock dam are always open all winter.

also note the proposed 1.2 Billion dollar Nike to be built on the north side of Red Rock Refuge. It is being apposed of course. I P & L Co also owns land below Red Rock dam which also is a site being considered. However they have a holding Co. buying land on the north side of Refuge, so pretty sure that is their choice!

However, the big story in Iowa has been the "invasion" of Evening Grasshoppers with almost every county in Ia reporting flocks. See enclosed map of Iowa Reports resulted from my Evening Grasshopper story in Sun. Register Dec 14, 1975.

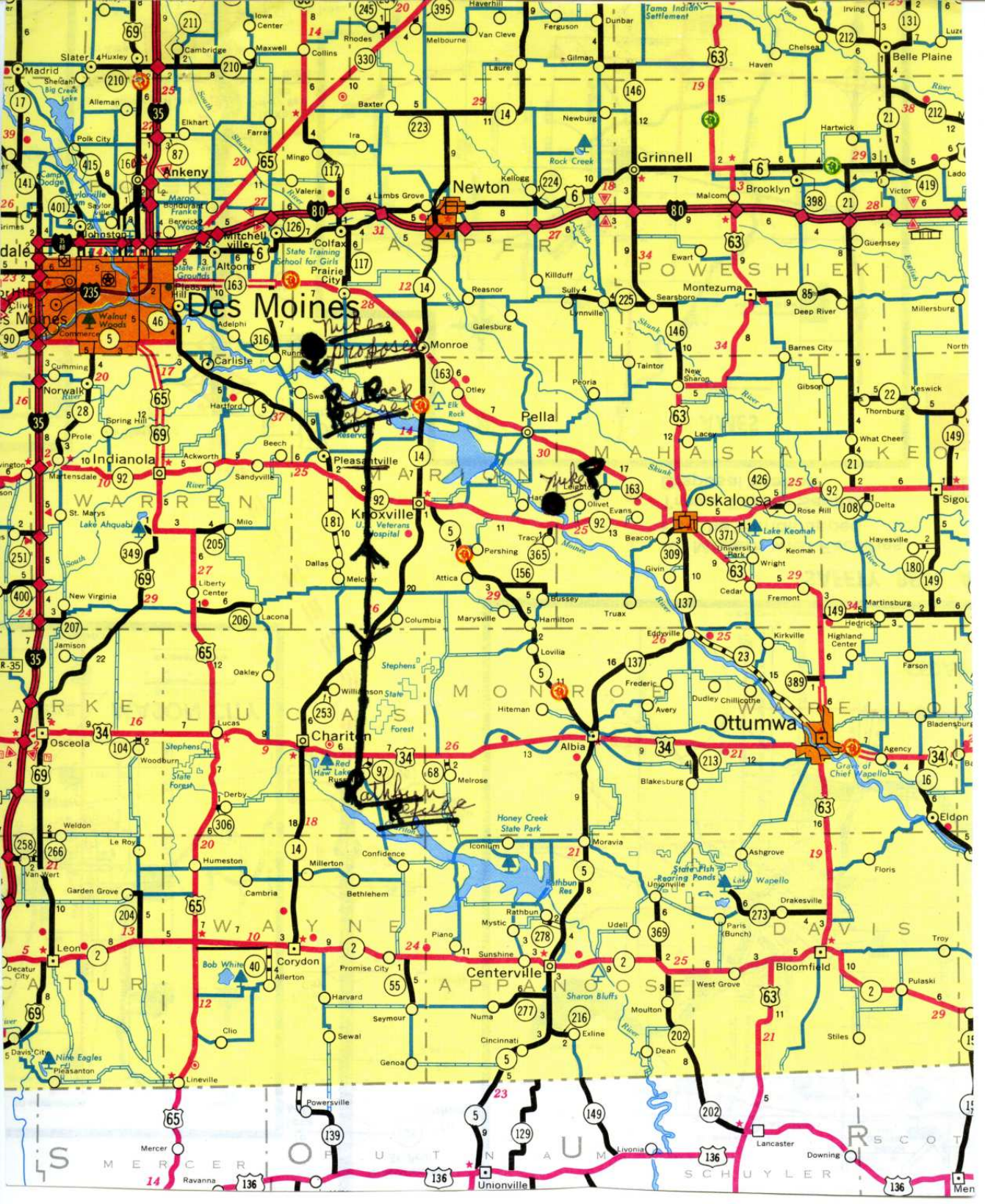
Doris Forest's Spairs of Pickering, Ontario, Canada, E. B. Authanty wrote me that all reports she rec'd indicated that all the E G's pulled out of Ontario's early over

Last fall, The Algonquin Provincial Park had none on there 1975 CBC - always have 5 to 600 and none in Peckering Township, usually 150 there. I thought the failure of the seed crop of the Manitoba maples was a factor as they depend on them.

I am wondering if Missouri had many flocks of Evening Grosbeaks overwintering there as most Ia. observers reported the birds did not stay long. I had a few reports from Mo. One 83 year old lady was so happy to inform me she had a flock from Nov. on & still with her! She lives in Kirksville, Mo.

Only 1 Snowy Owl report Jan 1976
Quite a bit down after last winter's final count of 80 in Ia.

Sincerely,
Gladys Black



Des Moines

Newton

Grinnell

Brooklyn

Pella

Oskaloosa

Chariton

Ottumwa

Centerville

Bloomfield

Leon

Ravanna

Unionville

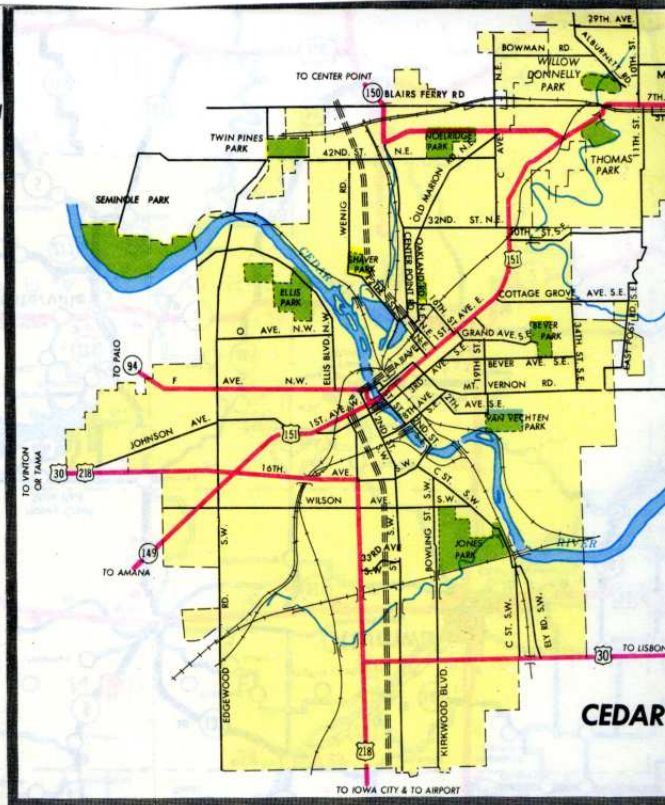
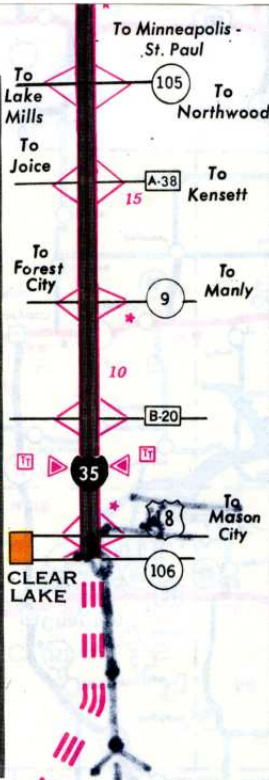
Lancaster

Men

Mike's

Mike's

John's



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