

Pleasantville La

50225

Jan 10, 1977

Dear Vernon, - Are you having quite a flight  
of Snowy Owls in Ill or in any other  
states reporting?

To date I have reports of 33 Snowies  
in 22 of Iowa's 99 counties. They began  
moving in in Nov. but one was west  
of here on a farm by mid Oct and  
stayed until Dec 20 when our Con-  
servation Officer watched it fly off  
south and disappear. I also have  
1 report from Hannibal Mo, a Snowy  
seen along the Miss. River north of Hannibal.

My reports are the result of the  
exposure on mass media. I was on a  
"Sportsman's Report" WHO Jan 3, 7 to 8 pm  
and then our Register + Tribune Outdoor  
Writer had pict of our Snowy in Jan 7  
Register. Clipping enclosed. The pict was  
taken Dec 15, 1976. Map enclosed too, to date 1/11/77

Had a letter from Daris Huestis Spiere  
Pickering Ontario, Canada. They had no  
Snowies nor hadnt heard of any in the  
Toronto + Ontario area. In fact, mine was  
the first report of any number and I wrote  
to her when I had rec'd only 14 reports

My question is why? Did the Lemmings  
suffer some sort of catastrophe in just  
one area of the Arctic tundra, perhaps  
due north of Iowa? After all their  
population crash occurred 2 years  
(over)

ago when we had the Major Invasion, winter  
of 1974-75 with 80 Swains in La.  
Kansas also had a major invasion that  
winter. I have written Shipley, Editor Bird Populations  
Institute, Manhattan Kans to ask if they are  
having a minor invasion. Kansas also used  
the mass media to gather data that winter.

Doris Spiers said they had only 4 Evening  
Grasshoppers on their Xmas Count. They had  
230 on 1974 Count. I haven't had a single  
E. Grasshopper in La this winter! Slaves said  
she was not surprised by their absence  
as they are extremely erratic.

I think we have a fine man in Mr  
Nicholas Haloni and I will send my Red  
Rack reports through him, and thus  
lessen the burden on you! I expect now  
and then I will write to ask about  
unusual or unexpected flights. I hope  
you won't mind my questions etc,

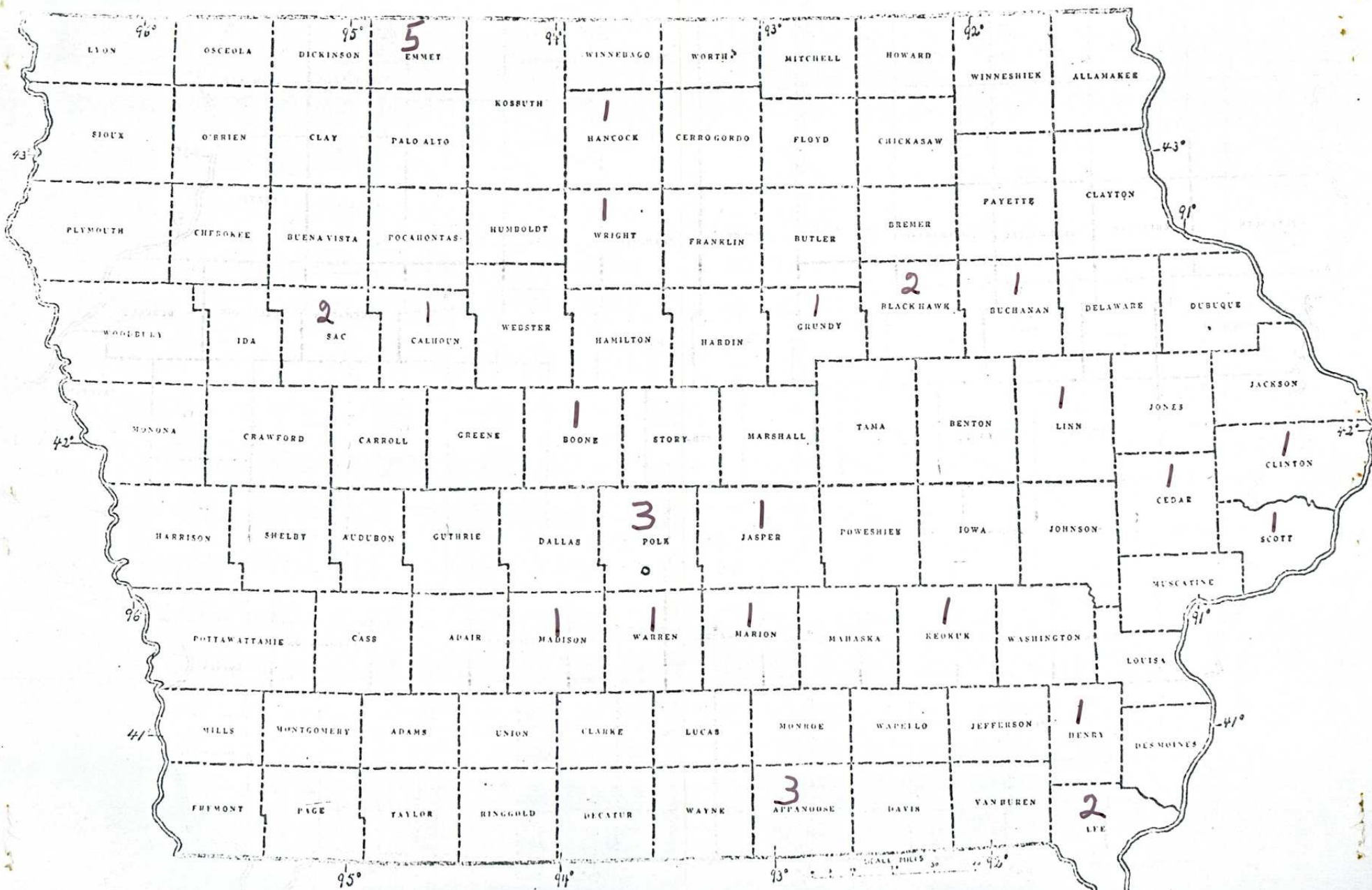
Sincerely,  
Gladys B Black

PS Had 50 species on Red Rack Xmas Count  
150 Canadas, 8500 Mallards, 5 Bald Eagles.



Iowa  
Snowy Owls 1976-77

Gladys Black  
Pleasantville Ia.



Total 33 m Ja  
22 Counties  
To date Jan 11, 1977

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