

Just picked a ♀ Hairy Woodpecker out of a trap today Dec 10 1976.
I had banded her on April 25, 1967, an adult then.
That's the oldest bird I've ever had here! Pleasantville Ia
at least 10 years old, appeared in good
condition! 50225

Dec 10, 1976
Dear Nicholas: - I am glad my report is not
too awfully long that I'm sure I tend to over
do at times.

Now, in my mail this week Mrs Stella
Kirkendall of Melbourne wrote me that she
saw a Snowy Owl Nov 21 near Beaman
in Grundy county but not far from the Marshall
County line. I hope she sent you this info
so it could be included in fall field reports.

She is reliable, was (and still is) a
member of the Mass. Audubon Society for
years during her long residence there. I
consider Mass. Audubon the tops!

Also I think I wrote you that Herb
Dorwin had been visiting relatives in Ft.
Madison + a Snowy Owl had been seen
there in Nov, pict in paper.

Louise wrote Keith L's + Judge Ayre's
several years ago asking them to send
in field reports. I knew they were always
having some species of interest but to no
avail! The Ayres band at that fabulous
wooded Baptist Campground south of
Ottumwa. They were the first to net
a Clark's Nutcracker in Oct 1972 but I
never got the info in time to include it
in my DM Zen Register story. They make
me so darned mad!

Also the ~~Layton~~ Layton told me a year or so ago
that they netted a number of Grasshopper Sparrows
over

on the field in back of their house. Woody is not the only one critical of the Ia. banders for never doing anything with their banding returns, recovers etc, there was a scathing review in "Bird Banding" (top mag. in that field, N.E. US) about Saward's report in I B L being "members" but no worthwhile research!

I think I told you that Larry Stone called last of Nov. to ask if we had Snow Buntings, told him I'd rec'd no reports except 1 in Oct from M+Vernon. Said he was seeing flocks of em along roads in NE Ia, presumably near St Plain Clayton County, but no Longspurs in the flocks.

Rec'd a phone call from Des Moines Dec 9, another Red-breasted Nuthatch in north edge of AM, probably not one of Lurene Waxter's 4 Redbreasts.

And a report of a Lawhee (Spotted-back) at feeders Dec 4-5 on farm near Waverly in Bremer County. Woody + I agreed that winter records in Ia are the Spotted-backs. And they are few here in our area.

Had my first Harris' Sparrow at feeder Dec 9 but my cousin north of here in woods near south edge of Refuge has Harris, Swamp, Tree, Song, Juncoes + 2 Lapland Longspurs, and 1 ♂ Purple Finch. Also several Red-headed Woodpeckers + she still has 6 Wh. Cr. + a couple of Wh. Thr. Sparrows now.

Have had no "fan" mail reporting any of the Northern Finches. Wonder if this is to be a dull winter?

My days are 1 round of trapping Starlings to feed my 3 Red-tails, 1 gr. Horned Owl + 2 Barred Owls. I lost my Long-eared Owl + that made me very sad. Such a beautiful bird but John Bowler, Central College, Pella will make a skin for their collection.
Sincerely, Gladys Block