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IBL

Pleasantville Ia

50225

Feb 28, 1977

Dear Nick: - Snawny caught now 191 in
74 Counties, Rec'd one report today from
Fayette County, so added 1 more County.
A mail carrier had seen the Owl every
day last week. That makes at least
3 seen after mid Feb.

Dr Robert Nero, Biologist, Dept of Re-
newable Resources, Winnipeg Canada
answered my "Why a Snawny invasion
just 2 years after one in 1974-75?" He's
of the opinion that the massive, prolonged
and widespread drought is the major factor.
Drought all over Manitoba + most of
Alberta + of course over northern States.
Presume plant growth + seed production
greatly reduced affecting rodent population.

He said many Snowies there in
Nov + then they just disappeared altho
the supply of jackrabbits was not
exhausted. They also feasted on muskrats,
he said.

I rec'd another Northern Shrike report
from Algona in Cassuth County - bird
in lawn, chasing a small bird then lit
in a shrub close to the house, far
a close-up view. Feel sure this lady
is reliable.

Am enclosing a zero copy of piece
in one of the Guthrie County papers.
Prevert never mentions birdwatchers
over

and never speaks to them either unless he
is taking the head off the hunters. All
the 2 million dollars appropriated by the
Legislature was spent for blocks of hunting
land & not to protect the Upper Iowa River
as the Legislature intended. I wrote
a rebuttal to the editor which of course
will be ignored! I sent a copy to
Dorothy Brunner - she's not afraid to
speak out!

Had a card from IOU Treas. Ruth
Buckles - 202 new members for IOU
since I issued invitation in one
of my stories Jan 23. I can't believe it!
Pete says volume will cut down cost
of I B L printing some what.

Sincerely,
Gladys Black