

Pleasantville Ia

50225

Feb 14, 1977

Dear Nick, - I wish to report the following rec'd in letters today.

1	Snowy Owl	- Muscatine County	- Feb 3, '77
1	"	"	Paueshuek " - Dec '76
1	"	"	Palo Alto " - Feb '77
1	"	"	Winnabago " - Jan + Feb '77

Total to date 172 Snowies in 70 Counties

No, I'll never make it to 200, I fear!

Also add 2 Northern Shrikes in Fayette County

This is accurate, a friend of Dean Rossa's working on the Red-Tail Hawk Survey.

A Brown Thrasher (1) overwintering at feeders in Burlington.

A Mackingbird (1) also there during Dec, Jan

Vernon didn't want the Snowy pict for front cover 2 yrs ago, just to use as a small pict in Mid West section. He used the Clark's Nutcracker pict in midwest section, not for front cover. It was taken at my east window, in Dec 1972.

Surprise! Surprise! I had a ♀ Evening Grosbeak at my feeders this a.m., 3rd record I have rec'd in entire state.

Last Fri. Gene Erb, reporter AM Tribune + Chuck Anderson Sub. photographer came to tower Red Rock. We drove down to the lake shore at north end of dam and as the motor was turned off, off flew a Snowy Owl from the sandy beach, out across the ice, finally landing on a bump on the ice and there he stood like a penguin.

Quite upright & tall. Chuck tried walking  
closer but the Snowy flew still further  
and again landed on the ice, keeping  
well away from the thousands of Mallards  
on the open water hole. The Mallards  
quacked furiously for several minutes  
whether directed at the Snowy, I don't  
know. Mallards are such loud mouths  
any way! This Snowy was first sighted there  
on Jan 1 and we feel sure it has been in  
the area ever since. I suspect he is fat  
from a diet of Mallards too!

Woody used to get so damned mad when  
LOU mbers just wouldn't bother to report,  
knowing he gonne well that people like the Ayres  
were seeing plenty of birds. A harrowing job!

I haven't been to Des Moines to see either  
the Boreal Chickadee or the Pigmy Nuthatch.  
I knew the brown-headed in Georgia and  
I always suspected the two were conspecific  
but Dr. Bob Harris did his doctoral research  
on the Pigmy, U. of Cal, (Allen Miller) didn't think  
they were. And any way who am I to question?

Yes, I will send my report for V. Klein to you,  
however I think you have every thing notable  
here except I will update the Snowy map

I send you the new map also the pict of  
Snowy on his day roost in a plowed field.

If Vernon doesn't want pict, that's OK, no  
offense, I mean. I usually sent him more  
than he needed or could use any way.

It will be better if you boil mind down!

I think you should send Varied Thrush report  
to Vernon too since it was so close to winter season &  
undoubtedly remained in the area for some  
time. I'm sure Jon Straver's is correct re 30 speys.

Sincerely, Gladys Black