

The Mahaska County Snowy
Owl east of Pella is still in Pleasantville Ia
the area. 50225
Jan 21, 1977

Dear Neek: - Rec'd your report of Snowy
in Johnson County. Now 44 Snowies in 30 Counties

Also add to the map I send you another
1 in Kossuth Co and another in Hancock Co.
(Total 2 in Kossuth, 2 in Hancock)

Also 1 for Iowa County seen by Jack Bag-
ford, 3 Wendale Terr., Iowa City. It was just
east of Williamsburg exchange on I 80 in Iowa Co.
seen on Jan 18, he phoned to tell me!

A letter from Mrs Robert Fountain, Route 4,
Iowa City telling me they had a Pileated Wood-
pecker on their farm Jan 13-16. Presume you
may know about it or want to check it
out. She said they have lived there for 40
years but this was the first Pileated they
had ever seen on their farm. I didn't know
that area had Pileated's.

3 Spotted Towhees, 1 at Shellsburg + 1 at Mason
City - both parties answered my inquiry
confirming "5 spotted" I think all winter Towhees
in Ia are the western race

A letter from 2 of the Rathbun birders
confirming 3 Snowies and they rather
think there may have been as many
as 5.

Other was had a Northern Shrike on their Xmas
Count Jan 2 also a flock of 7 Bluebirds.

Charlotte Seath reported watching a flock of 25
wild Turkeys flying across the road, one at a time,
South of Deynour near the Mo. line and they
were not put there by D.C.C. They apparently
are spreading thru and the area.

(over)

Later Sat. Jan 22

Jan Stravers & I have been hunting Red Tails today for Dean Ross's Survey. Located 2 pairs and 2 old nests where I have seen pairs for several years past. And another 3 localities where I have observed pairs in past years but not today. I think the Survey will take several trips and not just once over lightly. I plan to alert farmers in those areas, often they are helpful since they are out feeding livestock and might see the big birds.

On the flood plain of the Refuge we ran into huge flocks of Tree Swallows along the old road and an old canal, well over 1000. — most I'd seen at one place in several years. Also a flock of Goldfinches, probably 30. And the pair of Red Tails were in a big dead Cottonwood at a considerable distance east. Nests on the wooded Bluff to the south, I'm sure, altho we did not here to try & locate it, the old nest, I mean. The Great Horned Owls are such rascals to switch the old nests & force the Red Tail to build a new nest.

We didn't see a single Rough Leg or Marsh Hawk on the Refuge but Jan saw one Rough Leg earlier along the Lake.

And we saw at least 50 Cowbirds at one feed lot. One female had such a distinctive eye line that I checked carefully thinking of a female Varied Thrush but it was just a case of wishful thinking! Ha!

Stopped at my cousin's, farm adjacent to Refuge & by golly she does have at least 30 White-crown Sparrows!

Sincerely,
Bladys Black