

Back

Pleasantville Iowa
50225

March 5, 1977

Dear Vernon: - Dr. Nicholas Halme will be sending on to you my Snowy Owl Counts - 195 Snowies in 74 of Iowa's 99 counties.

I also included a map showing Snowy Count by counties and a (2) picture of our Snowy 3 miles west of Pleasantville on his day coast on bare ground. I recall you asked for a pict of Snowy 2 years ago when our final count was 83 in 32 counties

The mass media was involved in collecting this count - Register and Tribune (3 reporters + myself), 7 Radio Stations all carried one or more releases or tapes. I have used this method since 1972, calling for reports through my Bird column in the Des Moines Sunday Register (Clark's Nutcracker 1972-73)

Now, I have read opinions from one biologist Dr. Robert Nero, Dept of Renewable Resources Winnipeg, Manitoba who considered the widespread and prolonged drought as the major factor in reducing rodent pop.

Then from Paul Jones, Ottawa, Ontario comes a report that the mouse-vole population seems to be at a low point in the Ottawa-Tull area where many Snowies normally winter. Stated he had seen only 1 Snowy
over

and then a second one, both in late Feb.
also stated that fewer Rough-legs had been seen.

Stated he had seen 1 Hawk Owl all winter
also Boreal, Saw-whets, Long-eared, Screech, Great
Grey, Barred + Great Horned had all been seen
but no Short-eared & he attributed this to
"Iki-doo" rampaging all around the fields
where Short-ears normally hunt

He did state that there was a Lemming
crash on Bathurst Island, probably a factor
too.

It's been a very interesting but hellish
cold ^{winter} season with 1 Boreal Chickadee,
1 Pinyon Nuthatch, 3 Gray Jays and the
Snowy Owls also around 35? Northern
Shrikes but no Northern Finches. After
the 400+ reports of Evening Grosbeaks last
winter I've had only 4 or 5 reports all
winter! Erratic! Nalini may have a few more.

Sincerely,
Gladys Black



