

Clark's Nutcracker
16 Dec 1972
Pleasantville, Marion Co., IA
Herb Darow, Gladys Black
photo, Darow 1973

Record Number: 93-FE
Classification: A-P

PHOTOGRAPH

Herb Darow, 16 Dec 1972, IBL 43:27

REFERENCE

Darow, H. 1973. Another Clark's Nutcracker visits Iowa. IBL
43:27.

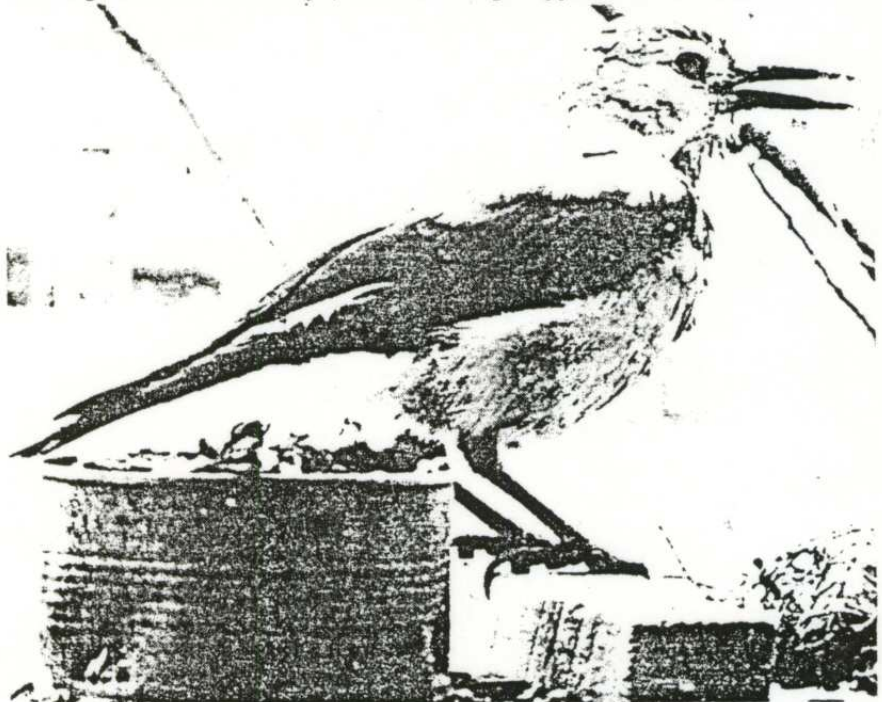
VOTE: 5 A-P

A-P, The published photograph shows a light-colored, crow-like
bird with black wings, white tertials and long pointed bill. The
bird was present for 4 days plus "a few". /thk

Clark's Nutcracker

Dorow, H. 1973 .Another Clark's Nutcracker visits Iowa. IBL 43:27.

Another Clark's Nutcracker Visits Iowa -- On Saturday morning, December 16th, Gladys Black of Pleasantville phones, excitedly saying, "Herb! You will not believe this! A Clark's Nutcracker came to feed at my window feeder! The last time a Clark's Nutcracker was recorded in Iowa was 1894! "Later we were to learn of the Ottumwa sighting in October. Our first concern was to get a photo record of the bird. My attempts to sight the bird while outdoors and photograph it were futile. We decided to set up a camera inside by the window so that when the bird appeared at the feeder, Gladys could trip the shutter. On December 19th Mrs. Black used up almost a roll of film . . . getting some very fine photos of about a foot-long bird. After a few days, the bird no longer appeared at the window.



Clark's Nutcracker at Pleasantville
Photo by Herb Dorow

Why did this Clark's Nutcracker leave its high altitude habitat of the Rocky Mountains? In answer to this question, Mrs. Black tells us that it could be a result of an eruption . . . meaning that wild creatures must leave their normal habitat in quest for food. That in this case it could be a failure of the cone crop of the conifers, a vital food supply necessary for them to survive the winter when other food sources are cut off by deep snows. -- HERB DOROW, 1200 S. 8th Ave. Newton