

Pleasantville Iowa
50225
Mar. 18, 1977

Dear Dick; - Yes, its forever before we finally learn the causes of such flights as our Snowy Owls - if we ever do! I could get no report from due north of us in W. Ontario either - just didn't know anyone there, Presume druth extended across Ont too! Nature!

Had a letter from Paris Huestis Speers at Peckering Ont. just outside Toronto. They had very few Snowies there. Two reported from the Peckering area nearby. Also 1 Snowy was captured at International Airport near Toronto, banded & released. They have a special man there, she wrote, who watches out for Hawks or Owls on the runway then catches them & released them far away after banding. Interesting idea! Of course, Toronto is far east of us - unless those Snowies traveled SW which is highly unlikely!

Had "border" guests from Ohio this a.m. and they had no invasion of Snowies this winter, to their knowledge.

Now have 197 Snowies in 74 counties, 1 more in Black Hawk + 1 in Polk, both late Feb.

Did Bill Wassinkveld of Centerville report his Northern Shrike of Mar 5 in his yard chasing a Sparrow so cat got the frightened sparrow. They weren't sure if it was a H sp. so took it away from the cat then released it, apparently unharmed.

over

Two other ladies & I went touring the Lake Thru
a.m. Force SE wind, sprinkling rain but birding
from the car was excellent. At south side of Lake
just east of Mile Lang Bridge we just sat in the
car and thoroughly enjoyed 4 a. + 2 imm. Bald
Eagles, fishing, soaring or loafing in big
trees to the east. More species of ducks moving
in too. Watched a pair of my favourite little Buffle
heads and 9 shoublers in a farm pond this
afternoon as I returned from buying 7 doz.
eggs for my family + me (only 50¢ a doz.)

Jon Stravers, Bella, has located 5 active
Red tail nests on No + So. sides of Lake Red Rock,
and 1 active Horned Owl nest. He goes out
birding every day as soon as he gets off work.
I have located several pairs but have
not found the nests except possibly one,
very aggravating - the birds a long distance
from gravel roads here in this Township.

I need to begin my search for my
L. Shrikes as they should be back on
territory by now.

Its time to feed my Owls, 5⁴⁵ p.m.
Feed the Red-tails in a.m.

Phone call from Marysville, small town
in this county - lady reported a partial
albino robin with a flock of robins. Said
it had a little rust on breast. Had never
seen it before so presume it is a migrant.

Sincerely,
Gladys Black