

# 8, this one sounds genuine (also n.w.)

Pleasantville, Ia  
50225

March 6, 1978

Dear Nick: - Douglas Harr, wildlife Biologist  
in charge of the Big Sioux Wildlife Management Unit  
507 First Ave, Rock Rapids Ia 51246 reports  
Feb 17, Snowy Owl near Inwood, Lyon County  
Also a Short-eared Owl at Rush Lake, Osceola  
County Feb 27 observed by Gary Wee, wildlife  
Technician.

He also commented on the tremendous  
flocks of Snow Buntings while driving from  
Rock Rapids to Spirit Lake Feb 23, counted  
18 distinct flocks, an estimated 1,300 birds  
(about 72 birds per flock) highest count yet

and while lining the nest barrels with  
straw for their wild nesting Island Canada  
geese at Jemmersen Blough wild life area  
near Spirit Lake, discovered a Great Horned  
Owl had "borrowed" a nest structure and  
was incubating 2 eggs of its own on Feb 27!

From rural Hastings, Mills County, one  
#9 Snowy Owl in their backyard, in tree  
(probably BK) March 5 reported by Janice Moore.  
Had her in Girl Scouts Bird Study years  
ago, LSU grad. Her mother + I bird together  
here. However its too late for a B.H. anyway

Had a report of a Gray-crowned Rosy  
Finch in Osceola, at wildow boy feeder  
since Jan 1. Talked to her, insists its not  
a Purple Finch! Told her to get a good photo-  
graph which will probably eliminate said  
(over) not very likely

Rose Finch since one has not been reported  
in Iowa since 1883! She insists it is! Ha! *Indeed*

Also talked to Russell Hays, Waterloo,  
that he might be in Pelween area but  
he thinks it is incorrect identification  
too, not worth checking! He says Tom Stone  
has Varied Thrush there! *no details*

Another 24 reader letters today and  
nearly every one reporting Red Polls, I  
have never known so many, so widespread  
in Ia before. And almost everyone has  
Dickins. And everyone has Gold finches  
at thistle feeders of course!

Sincerely,  
Gladys Black