

Pleasantville Iowa

50225

April 17, 1978

Dear Nick: - Sorry I've been slow. Also that the Magpie report was wrong. Gene Armstrong who brings the news from a Kansas City birding meeting feels sure it was valid but may have had wrong address. Gene is reliable as Woody can tell you.

I am enclosing a letter from John van der Linden - I think he would be most helpful on Rare Bird Alert hot line. I have found him, Marvin Patlorff of Sheldon, Doug Hare, Larame Wallace of Spirit Lake and Conservation Officer Bob Moats, 1017 No. 5<sup>th</sup> St, Estherville all to be reliable. I hat should help take care of extreme N.W. Ia.

I simply must put an item in one of my stories requesting that a rare bird sighting be reported the first day it is seen. Too many wait weeks. That Varied Thrush was missed that way altho Dick M. was sure it was valid in West Des Moines.

This past week, too late, I had a report via phone of an Anhinga at a private 6A. lake near Adel. The bird was there 2 days also a Carmosant which is still there. The report came from Hans Blissman. His wife, a psychiatrist Dr Jean goes to her office in D.M. daily & she missed seeing the bird too. Hans & Jean have traveled

worldwide on bird tours over the past 10  
or 15 years also within U.S. so I feel sure  
Hans is correct about I send him a Rare  
Bird Documentary film and you can  
do as you please about accepting it.

By the time I phoned Gene Armstrong  
the bird was gone. He did notify the  
wildlife management biologist Geo. Cox  
in charge of 4 counties in that area, hoping  
he & his men might see the bird at some  
of their lakes or marshes. Damn! To miss  
an Arching! And an such an accidental,  
it needs 20 persons at least.

Have 12 Cattle Egrets on dairy farm on  
So side of Lake Red Rock for past week. And I  
didn't learn of it till Fri April 14 altho I saw  
3 on south side of Refuge Apr 7 & 8. The 12 were  
seen by 2 LCC personnel so is correct - same  
farm we saw 15 last fall!

Also had 70 White Pelicans last week. Now  
have only 5. Still have 300+ Snaws + Blues  
which is late.

Have 3 active L Shrike nests and only  
1 active Phoebe nest. Phoebes most all gone  
from old bridges & culverts in my township.  
Have had no black this spring localing Red  
Tail nests altho I see the pairs.

Jon Stravers, Pella climbed the old Silver Maple  
in Prairie City & banded those 2 Horned Owlets  
& we went to Simpson College campus, Indianola  
& he banded those 2, also in old maple, 5<sup>th</sup>-year there.  
Simpson College is young one an Honorary  
Faculty Science degree at their Commencement May 14.  
Sincerely, Gladys Black