

What a Finch wunter!
still getting reports.

Pleasantville Iowa
50225
March 14, 1978

Dear Nick! - Presume by now you know
of the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch in Delwin.

Mrs Rex Ladeberg wrote me that she had
the Gray-Crown since New years, etc every
day 5 or 6 times in her window box feeder,
that her mother-in-law told her she
should notify me. The letter was rec'd
Mar 6.

I then called Russ Hayes that eve,
figuring he was fairly close to Delwin
Later had a card from Russ, saying Joe S.
would check it.

Finally 13 year old Tom Stone Jr phoned
me Sun. eve March 12, very excited, telling
me they had seen the bird that afternoon -
it was a Gray-crown Rosy Finch. He also
told me of their Varied Thrush. Sounded
like a talented + enthusiastic lad!

Man, I rec'd a letter from Dr Vargel Dawell,
UNI, Cedar Falls telling me of a Varied Thrush
there seen by Prof. + Mrs Wm C. Lang before was
also by 2 other couples almost daily including
the morning of Mar 7.

Is this a different bird from the one at Stones?

I asked O Ho Knauth, Register, to contact
Larry Stone to photograph the ^{Rosy Finche} bird for newspaper.
since Larry lives at I & D. Caf, no great distance
from Delwin.

Sincerely, Gladys Black

Pleasantville Iowa
50225
March 21, 1978

Dear Nick - what a winter for birds!
You are so right. Wonderful!

And now a possible Magpie at Wapello
I haven't heard from Pete, whether he
located the feedlot. And yesterday I
had a letter from rural West Des Moines
reporting a Varied Thrush. I asked Otto
Knauth of R+J to ask Dick M + Moody B
to check it. Will see them to mite
to learn if its just another odd robin!!

We definitely need a well organized Rare
Bird Alert. I can accept calls as I'm
always home if I am informed as to
the procedure the IOU wants followed.

I phoned Russ re. the Gray Crown. He was
doubtful and I feared I would not feel
it worth a trip. And of course I was
not too sure Sharon was correct either!
Except that she was seeing it at her
window close up, several times daily
since Jan 1, using Robbins guide.

yes, I think when I send in my
story of the 1978 Blue List, that I should
emphasize the reporting of any strange
birds. I have emphasized Finches, per-
haps too much this winter. And I
probably should suggest again that
(over)

2) readers all get a copy of *Birds of North America* by Robbins -- so they would have both eastern and western birds easily accessible. Most already have it - 2 years ago when I suggested it, they made a run on Fred Peveic's mail-order book store!

11:30 pm Dec 21

Just home from 11M Audubon Society meeting. LeRoy Pratt gave a slide program of La. wild flowers - really excellent but too damned long.

At 7 a.m. tomorrow Dick Mooney & Hardy are to check the O Berg Varied Thrush? Some should know if its a valid report.

O yes, I wonder if it wouldnt be smart for me to mail each reader a Rare bird documentation form to be filled out & mailed to you - that is, species such as Pine Grosbeak, perhaps also white-winged Crossbills just as soon as I receive the letter or long distance phone call. Too late for this winter of course. But it probably should be procedure in the future.

If you have any suggestions, or if Pete has, please let me know. One problem is that we do not have experienced birders in some sections of the state. I have one reader at Rock Rapids who is reliable & perhaps could help. At Estherville the Conservation Officer is a keen observer too. Also Don Prue Conservation officer in SW Ia is an experienced birder. I think we should compile a list covering the state.

Sincerely,
Islady's Black