

7 Feb.

Dear Nick:

I'm glad your Arctic excursion was so successful, and not too much discomfort because of the weather.

I'd not dispute the Hoary Redpoll in Marion, and I'd be tempted to accept Stu's sighting. I hope you let him down easy to avoid discouraging him. My feeling is that he is very conscientious and intelligent, and he was satisfied in his own mind as to the ident. According to the guides, the separation of the two sp is easy; this of course depending upon the view obtained.

Did I write that Dick had 2 Pine Grosbeaks in Glendale Cem. on 24 Jan.? He was on foot and immediately went to the home of Ruth Binsfeld which adjoins the cemetery, and called his wife and me. We went immediately and found Dick with Ruth where the Grosbeaks were with a few Redpolls. Upon returning home I called Stu Burns but he didn't get home until 20 min later, and by the time he got there the birds couldn't be found. Neither could they be found the next day, or subsequently.

We are getting a few Redpolls and Siskins, ^{Redpolls} and the Red-breasted at our feeders. Mrs. Warters has had 30-40 and I've been awaiting a sunny morning to go there and look them over. The opportunity hasn't arisen as yet.

Dick and I were out yesterday and found some Horned Larks, but no Longspurs. One flock included 5 Snow Buntings, a couple in practically perfect breeding plumage. This is the first year I've seen them after 1 Jan, hence never is such brilliant plumage.

^{last week}
A call from Mrs. Harvey of Adel, said some friends who were pretty good birders had seen 2 Snowies west of there. I told here to call Gene Armstrong who is not far from there and give him the exact location. The next day Dick and I and the Armstrongs went to the area, and in the exact spot saw 2 mature Red-tails. Last Monday the Mooneys came by the place and the hawks were still in the same tree, but this time facing the road and showing nothing but pure white. It's easy to see how an inexperienced observer can mistake these. We had a similar experience a few weeks across the river from Walnut Woods - a pure white-fronted Red-tail.

To the shortcomings of IBL can be added tardiness. As you are probably aware, for reasons of economy the printer is allowed to look upon this as pick-up work to be done when he isn't

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busy. This may save us some money, but I'd a damn sight rather save money by eliminating book reviews. The Mooneys and Armstrongs were at Pete's house recently, and he had to move his library account lack of space! Small wonder.

Dear Nick:

I've been harping for years on the fact that the mag is what determines the success or lack of same in keeping up the membership. The majority of members get nothing for their dues but IBL and many think it's not worth the money. My own case is an example, I think. Last year I went to the MOU meeting and joined up, and received the Loon all year. While I think the Loon vastly superior to IBL in all respects other than Field Reports, I decided this year that I wasn't likely to go on any field trips or attend MOU meetings, and the Loon wasn't worth \$6. Accordingly I resigned.

Andy

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home of Ruth Hirsfeld which adjoins the cemetery, and called his
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polls at our feeder. Mrs. Walters has had 30-40 and I've been
waiting a sunny morning to go there and look them over. The
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