

Pleasantville Iowa
50225

Feb 22, 1978

Black
Dear Nick' - Woody reminded me at AM Aud. Society meeting last night that I hadn't sent my winter report to you. I was thinking it was due the last of Feb. Hope it is not too hopelessly late although I'm sure you have all the reports of this big "funch" winter state wide already.

Am enclosing a map showing Evening Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbill + Pine Grosbeak reports.

As you can see, our EB's invasion is minor compared to 1975-76 when my final report in April was 405 observers in 96 counties. Not over half a doz. observers reported them staying at feeders for an extended period. They moved thru fast, a wise decision considering our snows and the drought last summer reduced maple seeds.

If you need the names of the observers of Pine Grosbeaks, I will send them. I suspect you have most of them already i.e. Dick M.oney, D. Breunner, L. Serbansek etc.

Undoubtedly Red Polls have reached every county in Iowa also Pine Siskins and in goodly numbers. Red-breasted Nuthatches in ones and twos over the state too
(over)

3-maw Bunting reached at least to the Missouri line. (Charlotte Scott) many flocks. Northern half of Iowa had more than ever before according to observers who are life long residents.

Hopland Longspurs associated with the above were numerous.

Horned Larks in greatest numbers ever according to several observers. One observer in Sheldon had checked many flocks and found the northern race most numerous.

3-maw Owls were conspicuously absent. Only 4 seen in N.W. Iowa. One a week ago about 7 miles south of Knoxville along a road reported by Knoxville High Science teacher.

Doris Avestis Spiers, Toronto reported that Venus at Thunder Bay, Ontario said terrific winds last fall flew the Birch seeds to the ground, soon covered with deep snow. Probably a factor in our Redpoll invasion, that and a good breeding season. He also said that big flocks of Starlings stripped the Mountain Ash berries last fall, the staple in the diet of the Pine Grosbeak. However Doris said they too were having a fine winter in their area with Pine Grosbeaks stripping the Highbush Cranberry bushes. The said good wild food supply but a population explosion of Evening Grosbeaks pushed many south. Sincerely,
Gladys Black

Winter 1977-78

Feb 22, 1978
J. Black
rec'd.
2/24

Red Rock area + Pleasantville and
Reader reports statewide

Ducks + geese - reported by Jan Stravers
Hawks + Eagles - " " " "

Snowy Owls - 1 seven miles south of Knoxville
week of Feb 5, report from Kulle High Science Ichr
Only 1 other Snowy reported, all in N. W Iowa. **details?**
Long-eared Owls - few Warren County all winter
first by Larry Stone in Dubuque. Few statewide,
Short-eared Owls - few reported statewide.

Horned Larks - reported in greatest numbers all
over Ia. One Sheldon check revealed majority
northern race.

Red-breasted Nuthatches - 1 or 2 reported at feeders
all over Iowa. 1 in Pleasantville Nov-Feb,

Robins A farmer Don Rose at Tulin Iowa
reported on Mon Jan 23 hundreds of robins
in all their trees and at all the stock waterers
with similar sightings by neighbors. By
noon all were gone. Tulin is about 10 miles
east of the massacre R. in Monona County.

Northern Shrikes - several scattered reports
across No. half of state, taking birds at
feeders.

Bohemian Waxwings - One report of 8 in a flock
of 65 Cedars feeding on Haws in Winterset,
Madison County early Feb. **reliable observer?**

Cardinals - only 1 large flock of 36 birds reported at feeders 5 1/2 miles north of Pville.

Many wrote complaining that Cardinal population was down this winter.

Evening Grosbeaks - 167 observers in 62 counties

Only a few had flocks staying over winter.

Purple Finches - many reports of a few at feeders statewide but all complained they were fewer in number than last winter.

Common Redpoll - In every county in the state surely, with flocks from 10 to 200.

Pine Siskins - also statewide, in every county.

American Goldfinch - most numerous in the millions (due to the craze for thistle feeders?) also over Iowa.

Red Crossbill, only 1 reported, in Waterloo

White-winged Crossbill - 18 observers in 13 counties in Ia. I had 1 report of these birds in Labadie, Missouri, 60 miles W. of St. Louis on the Mo. River!

Juncos + Tree Sparrows common on cleared shoulders of highways.

Harris Sparrows - 6 flocks and 1/2 miles N. of Pville

White-crowns - 40 at feeders 5 1/2 mi. N. of Pville all winter.

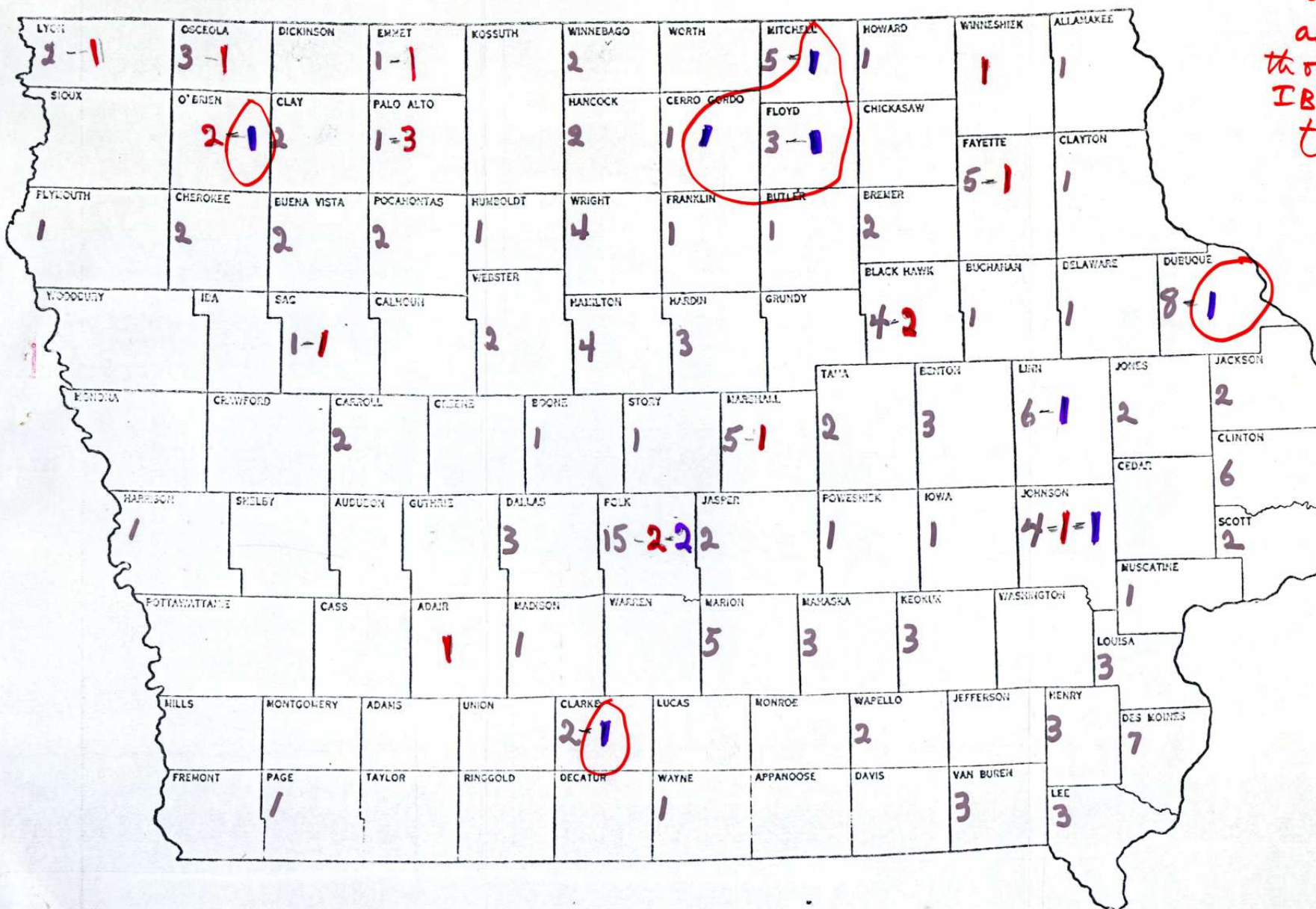
Sapsucker - numerous in flocks of Horned Larks + Snow Buntings.

Snow Buntings - reported greatest numbers ever seen across northern Iowa. And in goodly numbers all the way to Missouri, flocks of 20 to 150 seen. arrived in Nov. in Lake Kathlamet area.

G Black

Winter 1977-78
 167 Observers reporting Evening Grosbeaks in black — in 62 counties
 10 " " Pine Grosbeaks in purple — in 9 counties
 18 " " White Winged Crossbills in red — in 13 counties

Circled are in addition to those in IBL report; total for state may be ≈ 50



Gladys Black