

March 12

Dear Vern:

Enclosed are a few last minute items. At least some of Gladys Black's Snowy Owls (second hand all) seem real. In her letter she dismissed a report of a Gray-crowned Wren in Oelwein, Fayette Co. I have just had 2 phone calls, one from Pete, the other from a young chap named Tom Stone in Waterloo. The latter, along with 2 reliable, experienced birders, Joe Schaufenbuel of St. Lucas and Russ Hayes of Waterloo, saw the Oelwein bird, and it is the genuine article (from 3 ft. at window feeder). Second Iowa record, first in 1883. I have asked for a doc. form from Tom, and expect one from Joe, who is very conscientious. The bird has been there since Xmas — so you may want to include it with the winter report (photos were taken, and allegedly published in the local paper earlier, but not in hand), or wait until we have all the documentation in hand, and put the item into the Spring report, since the bird was still there today (if it is there next weekend, we will drive up with Pete etc.; as you can see, our "hot line" is anything but). The same threesome also saw a Varied Thrush in Cedar Falls, of which Tom Stone's father has photos. This has been at feeders

Since November, reliably every day, <sup>up to 3/12.</sup> again, it took this long for the news to travel 90 miles! Damn it!

This then is my final note for the winter. It seems easier to keep up with Hawk Owls in Duluth and Eur. Curlews on Martha's Vineyard than stuff practically in our back yard. Crap!

Sincerely

Nick

Rosy Finch at Mrs. Rex Ladeburg feeder  
401 1st St. S.W., Dulwin

Varied Thrush at Grace Leinen's  
2516 Franklin St., Cedar Falls

An update on our Hoary Redpolls: Tom Kent saw a flock of redpolls near the CoR on 3/10. One looked "frosty", and he got close enough to see a white rump and crissum. This gives us a total count of a possible 7 H.R.s for the winter (and into March). One photo, another documented by PP, this observed well by one of our newly-trained experts, looks genuine, one more apparently well observed with scope, and the rest more plausible than they would otherwise be because of the "invasion" of H.R.s into the state.