

Brown

12 Feb. 1978

Dear Nick:

The 15th deadline really "snuck up" on me and I only saw it in IBL which just came. The date appears very early with lots of winter (I fear) still to come and travelers' warnings for tonight. I suppose this date enables the write-up to appear in the March issue which will come out sometime in June.

The list of sp for which documentation is wanted seems rather voluminous. I don't know whether one will be forthcoming for the Pine Grosbeaks or not. This is a winter rarity, but was found earlier in the northeast, and Bob Vane told me yesterday that Jean had seen it somewhere in that area.

The last previous report from here was on 4 Jan. '70, also in Glendale Cem, and also by Dick Mooney who got me to verify it. In 1953 a male was in Waterworks Park from 14 Jan. to 28 Feb. The present sighting was on a bright, sunny, but cold day under perfect conditions. Evidently this species likes high perches; the m and f (I didn't get to see the imm) were on the tip-top branches of a sycamore in the manner of an Olive-sided.

I was interested in your comparison of the state lists of IA and Minn. The implication is that we have far more accidentals than our neighbor. I don't know enough about Minn birds to comment, but I notice that of the 271 "reasonable" sp in Iowa, I've seen all but Merlin, Barn Owl, and Chuck-wills-widow, and have also seen 19 which are not on the list.

Thord

268
19
287

P.s. Are you interested in the mammals of Fremont Co.?

P.p.s. Wouldn't the Hoary Redpoll at Marion qualify for a Hot Line sp? Not that I'd drive that far, having seen it in Minn.

W

Winter 1977 - Des Moines

- Cooper's Hawk. Only report is of the one which appears to be living off the birds at Gene Armstrong's feeders. (it may have bad luck).
- Harriers. Gene Armstrong saw 6 on 16 Dec. with one or two regularly in early Dec.
- Horned Larks. Still around in numbers, but not nearly as many as earlier.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch. A "good year". Mrs. Warters has had 3 all winter, and we've had 2.
- Mockingbird One seen on 16 Dec. (R. Mooney) and found on the CC
- Brown Thrasher One has wintered thus far at Mrs. Warters' (Des Moines)
- Evening Grosbeak. Very few despite Gladys Blacks' many reports.
- Purple Finch. Seen only occasionally and only 1 or 2 at a time.
- Pine Grosbeak. In mid-Dec. one visited the feeder of Earl Holle in Des Moines (fide R. Mooney)
On 24 Jan. in Glendale Cem. a male, female, and an imm. (R. Mooney and others.)
- Redpolls Present at many feeders, but not in numbers as at time of last invasion. Mrs. Warters has ca 30. *
- Pine Siskins Possible Hoary by Stuart Burns on 8 Jan. near Imp. Res. Situation similar to that of Redpolls. Nothing like previous invasion.

Erratum. The Chat seen on 19 Sept. was in Helen Johnson's yard and not seen by me.

* On 31 Jan there were at least 200 Redpolls in a weedy field about 15 miles west of Des M. The only ones I've seen other than those at feeders.

Mark BROWN

The Peregrine by "DM" must have been Dean Mosman's, but he is not listed as a contributor.