

Pleasantville Iowa
50225

Feb 28, 1978

Dear Pete, - I believe the white-winged
Crossbills are ones you mentioned in a
letter, seen with Jim Kent and then Woody
in a letter mentioned Pine Grosbeaks in
Iowa City and I presumed that came from you.

Anyway I am including a copy of my
records on White wings, Pine Grosbeaks
and Snowy Owls.

The 8 Bohemians in a flock of 65 Cedars
came to me from Leo Bienfang, a Mr Miller
that Leo vouched for as being a long-
time birder, maintaining feeders & planting
for birds, were seen eating Haws in an
ornamental Hawth tree in Wenterset, Madison
County, reported by long distance telephone Feb 4,
Leo has an insurance agency in Des Moines.

I just went thru today's 21 letters thinking
there might be another Pine Grosbeak, white wing
report but it was Redpolls everywhere and
6 more reports of Evening Grosbeaks - add 1
to Dickinson Co., 1 to Emmett, 1 to Mitchell, 1 to
Henry, 1 to Bremer and 1 to Webster County.

Including Crossbill pict rec'd from Jim Jewell.
I receive many photos, most of them of poor
quality but OK for ident.

~~If Klein feels so strongly about my reader's
reports, don't include mine in a report to
him. I have spent several years helping to
get readers interested in birds and I don't
intend to discourage their reports to me,
or their questions about birds. Between
Jan 24 and Feb 25 I answered 145 letters and~~

those were the ones I paid for the stamps. Many others I didn't count the number, enclosed stamped self addressed envelopes. I do not answer letters reporting birds, only those with questions.

I rec'd a most amusing letter from a wife telling me her husband decided their finches needed a Thistle seed feeder big enough for all to perch + feed at one time. So he took two 3 foot sections of stove pipe, welded it together in the middle, bored 38 feed holes + 38 perches. It holds 30 pounds of thistle seed. She included a picture of it printed in the Burlington newspaper. All perches occupied except two. 34 were gold finches + 2 were Siskins. I wouldn't have believed that finches would be attracted to an opaque tin feeder!

Let me know if you need further info.

Sincerely,
Gladys Black