

September 19, 1978

Vernon M. Kleen
2311 Huntington Road
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Dear Vern:

Your letter reached me while I was on the West Coast adding such birds to my list as Laysan Albatross, Flesh-footed Shearwater and Red-Billed Tropicbird (for an ASA total of 613, all minus an Alaska trip).

As the enclosure shows, I did have a documentation form from Fred Thompson, and was sure I had sent the original, either with the report or earlier. I may have, of course, slipped up, as I did in not catching the RT for FT typo (I corrected that in the IBL galley). The only person from Marion was Fred Thompson, so the typo was pretty obvious. I guess we both operate under the pressure of deadlines, and goof occasionally. I am sure Fred will understand from your letter that no personal slight was intended. I am glad we agree that a bona fide first state record deserves boldface. I am also very much in your camp on the need for exacting documentation in the case of extralimited Hoary Redpolls. Fortunately, this bird had photos by Pete that were absolutely diagnostic.

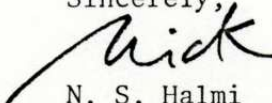
I have tangible evidence that material received after the IBL but before the AB deadline did reach you. The documentation of a Varied Thrush by Paul Ferleman and all of Gladys Black's material was sent with a covering letter after January 20, and is in your report. So the supplement is not in question, but I have found the original letter from Neil Heiser (to Janet Greer of Council Bluffs) in my file, and so I may have left out the Xerox (I usually send originals). Most importantly, I was asked to return the colored slide, and the dupe or print I requested never materialized. In retrospect, the blame for the Ferruginous Hawk record not having been published rests, it seems, mainly with Mr. Heiser himself.

I couldn't resist the dig about Springfield, MO, since I am sure this kind of error must plague you quite a bit. I hope you got the jocular tone of the comment, in spite of your serious response.

I was surprised you mentioned the Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch at all in the Winter Report. None of us found out about it until well into March, and we drove up to see it 2 days before it departed for good! The feeder-lady simply didn't believe the testimony of her eyes for months. We are lucky somebody finally persuaded her to call Gladys.

Thank you for the warning about initials only. Some regions have had it that way for years. Omission of all initials may save money but would cause loss of records--people are motivated by the expectation of having their names in print. I don't see how you can omit middle initials if you have, say, a John Smith and James Smith. And if it's a John A. Smith and James A. Smith? We'll cross this bridge when we come to it, and hope for names like Schaufenbuel (one of our best young contributors) in the meantime.

Sincerely,



N. S. Halmi

cc: Fred Thompson
Peter Petersen
Encl.