Dear Vern:

As you can see from the enclosed letter, Woody Brown considers the attached documentation for Steller's Jay, a new species to the Iowa list, sufficient for acceptance. I don't agree, and several people I showed the materials to share my skepticism. I told Woody I would send you the stuff, since I will report this very gingerly in my forthcoming IBL report unless somebody convinces me that it would be prudent to do otherwise.

We do have 2 (possibly nesting) Say's Phoebes n.e. of Iowa City in Linn Co., well to the e. of any previous state record. I got back last week from a trip to Churchill, with a group led by Davis Finch. I reached and went past the magic number of 600 for the ABA area, with Glaucous Gull, Long-tailed Jaeger, Smith's Longspur, Willow Ptarmigan, Spruce Grouse and Baird's Sparrow in s.w. Manitoba (I have not been to Alaska). The way people are piling up Asian strays on Attu and Gambell, maybe only 700 is a number of real distinction. I guess we'll have to yield to Larry Balch on that landmark, among the people in this area.

Best regards

Nick

Aug. 8

Dear Vern:

Just after my typist finished the summer Report, the enclosed material came from Dr. Dinsmore. It contains a number of significant additions, and you will want to use some of these. Dr. Dinsmore covers an important part of the state, the n.w. portion, and has a number of unique (for this summer) observations.

The reason why this happens is twofold: a) people can't seem to memorize that the summer is June 30 - July 31; b) the last issue of IBL was too late to remind them, because of Pete's slowness + that of the U.S. mail (IBL arrived 1 week after he mailed it in Iowa City, 60 miles away, but in 4 days in the extreme s.w. of the state).

Sorry to inconvenience you, but this is, for you, probably just a minor relapse into the chaotic conditions of the past.

Best regards

Nick

To facilitate matters, I am inserting ∧ marks with marginal J.D. notations where I feel that Dinsmore's contribution may be of interest to OB.