
LETTERS

CATTLE EGRET AT WHITE BEAR

Dear *Blue Jay*:

In early November of 1990, Leonard Smid, a farmer at White Bear, Saskatchewan, noticed an all white, chicken-sized bird, feeding in a nearby field. Later this bird was seen in the farmer's yard. Then, not seeing that the bird again, Leonard assumed that it had migrated.

When working in his yard in April 1991, Leonard found the carcass of the bird, which was identified as a cattle egret. The bird was approximately 20" long, with all white plumage, black legs and feet and a yellow bill.

Sig Jordheim, Box 59, White Bear, Saskatchewan. S0L 3L0

HOUSE FINCH VISITS BRANDON

Dear Editor:

On July 22, I got a phone call from my daughter Mildred J. Wenger. She asked me to come with her to see a beautiful bird which had been feeding at her bird feeder. I said I could, so she arrived quite soon after and took me to her home in southeastern Brandon.

Their bird feeder was straight out from the bay window in their kitchen and I sat inside watching Siskins and Gold Finches and House Sparrows feast on seed from the feeder. Although there were a lot of birds feeding there, the minutes seemed to be very long as the "beautiful bird" was slow in showing up for some seeds. My daughter and I were getting worried as we began to wonder if it had left the area, but all of a sudden

there it was there - adorned with red feathers on its head and breast and also a few at the base of its tail. It sure did not take long to see that we were looking at a male House Finch in all its beauty.

This brings to four the number of rare birds I have seen, including a Rufous Hummingbird, Whooping Cranes, an Indigo Bunting and now a House Finch.

Later that day, when telling Brandon bird watcher Barbara Robinson of seeing the House Finch, she told me that a woman living in a northwestern area of Brandon had some of the birds nesting near her home. Who knows when or where they will be seen next?

Harold Watson, 220 Franklin Street, Brandon, Manitoba. R7A 5P3

MORE ALBINO BIRDS

Dear Editor:

After reading "Observations of Albinism in Birds" by Jean Bancroft (*Blue Jay* 49), I looked through my field notes and found the following sightings:

"27 August 1991. On the way to the harvest field, saw a flock of several thousand American Crows. There among them, flying along was an albino crow, not white but a very pale gray all over. Although I watched every flock of crows all fall, I did not see it again."

"1 June 1981. Raining. Around 20 Canada Geese grazing south of the cattle shed on tame grass. One goose was an albino."

I also remember seeing a partial albino Ring-necked Pheasant several different times here on the ranch, although I have neglected to write it down in my notes.

All above observations were made a few miles northeast of Leader, Saskatchewan, at my home or nearby.

Daisy D. Meyers, Box 218, Leader, Saskatchewan. S0N 1H0



DAZED BUT FRIENDLY PINE GROSBEAK

Dear *Blue Jay*:

In February 1991, while we were visiting our daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Vern Nygard of Tisdale, Saskatchewan, a Pine Grosbeak hit the window. After the bird came to he was reluctant to leave, so they took him into the house. I was able to get a good picture of him before he was sent on his way. The picture may be of interest to bird lovers who read the *Blue Jay*.

Aletha Stein, Box 14, LeRoy, Saskatchewan. S0K 2P0



Pine Grosbeak

Aletha Stein

