

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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Edited by FRED J. PIERCE

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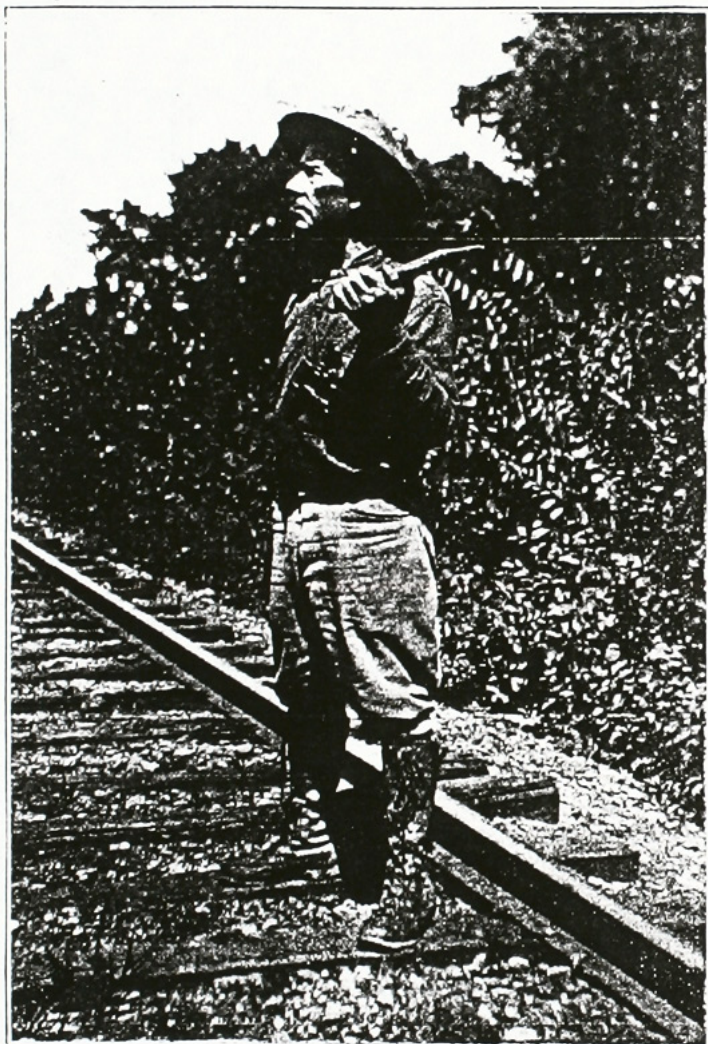
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Field Notes on Iowa birds, book news, and historical or biographical material pertaining to Iowa ornithology are desired for publication.

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE  
WINTHROP, IOWA



Photographed by Chas. J. Spiker

### DR. LE ROY TITUS WEEKS

1854-1927

" . . . . An ardent nature lover, he loved all the great out-of-doors. It was indeed a privilege and inspiration to go out with him early in the morning, for he had the happy faculty of imparting to others the messages he heard in the songs of his little feathered friends. He was student, philosopher, theologian, poet and philanthropist, and as such, never missed an opportunity to speak a word of encouragement and good cheer to his neighbor.

"The man is dead, yet his spirit lives on in the high ideals he implanted in the minds of the young men with whom he came in contact. His poems breathe the wholesomeness of the nature lover, and through them he shall still be with us. The Iowa Ornithologist Union has lost one of its oldest and most active members, and his friendly council will be missed at its gatherings."—From a 1927 issue of the Union's mimeographed Bulletin.



## A BIT OF HISTORY

By WALTER M. ROSENE

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Studying birds alone is not nearly so interesting as to have one or more of your friends with you to enjoy your hobby. It was while studying birds alone a number of years ago that I read an article in the *Des Moines Register* about a certain man in New Hampton, Iowa, who had seen a great number of birds. The paper gave a list of them—over a hundred, I believe. I was interested, and immediately wrote a letter to Mr. Spiker, who was then a stranger to me. It was not many weeks until he drove down to call on me. Of course, I wanted to show him our bird country, so we set out immediately for the Ledges State Park, near Boone. We spent the day together talking birds and studying birds in this beautiful spot along the Des Moines River.

In the course of our tramping, I suggested to Charley that we should get together all the folks in Iowa who were interested in birds, get better acquainted, and perhaps form an organization. Mr. Henning, the custodian of the park, told us of the old Iowa Ornithological Association, of which he had been a member but which had long since been disbanded.

Charley was a student at Morningside College, Sioux City, and did his share of the missionary work for organization in that corner of the state. Accordingly, when the announcements were sent out for the meeting of the Iowa Conservation Association at Ames, February 28, 1923, it was stated that a part of the program would be devoted entirely to birds. The "bird fans" were given free rein. Dr. T. C. Stephens of Morningside College was in charge of this meeting and we proceeded at once to form the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. The following people were elected the first officers: President, Walter M. Rosene, Ogden; Vice-President, Dr. T. C. Stephens, Sioux City; Secretary, Mrs. H. M. Bailey, Sioux City; Treasurer, T. H. Whitnev, Atlantic. Executive Committee: Homer R. Dill, Iowa City; Rev. L. T. Weeks, Emmetsburg; A. J. Palas, Des Moines.

This, in brief, is the history of the birth of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. It started well and continued to grow rapidly, aided greatly by the careful and persistent work of our efficient Secretary, Mrs. Bailey.

The annual meeting in 1924 was held at Ames on March 8, again with the Iowa Conservation Association, and the same officers and committees were elected as in the previous year.

On February 20-21, 1925, our third annual meeting was held at Ames with the Iowa Conservation Association, and again the same officers and committees were elected. A very fine program was carried out, but space does not permit mention of the interesting papers and lectures presented.

Many of our members had urged that we have our meeting in May so that we might have a field trip in connection with the meeting; so on May 14-15, 1926, we held our fourth annual meeting and field trip at Atlantic, Iowa, as guests of the Atlantic Bird Club. Officers and committees elected here were: President, Walter M. Rosene, Ogden; Vice-President, T. H. Whitnev, Atlantic; Secretary, Kenneth Nelson, Des Moines; Treasurer, A. J. Palas, Des Moines. Executive Council: Rev. L. T. Weeks, Tabor; Dr. F. J. Becker, Atlantic; Wier Mills, Piereson. Our first field trip was taken and it was a decided success. All returned to their homes thanking the good folks of Atlantic for their fine entertainment.



Upon invitation from the Des Moines Audubon Society we met at Des Moines on April 30 and May 1, 1927, for our fifth annual meeting. We had a list of 82 species of birds on our field trip. Dr. William T. Hornaday of New York City was the principal speaker at our banquet and about 180 were present to hear his interesting lecture. Officers



WALTER M. ROSENE

First President of Iowa Ornithologists' Union and author of this article. With Mr. Arthur J. Palas Mr. Rosene shares the distinction of having attended every annual meeting of the Union thus far held. In addition, he has appeared on the programs of nearly all of the meetings. His home is at Ogden, Iowa, where he is a banker.

elected for the year were: President, A. J. Palas, Des Moines; Vice-President, Mrs. Mary L. Bailey, Sioux City; Secretary, Kenneth Nelson, Des Moines; Treasurer, Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, Spirit Lake. Executive Council: Walter M. Rosene, Ogden; Mrs. J. E. Stewart, Des Moines; Dr. C. W. Johns, Ames. We were well entertained by the Des Moines Audubon Society and had the largest attendance of any of our meetings.

Our sixth annual meeting was held at Ames on May 11, 1928, with the field trip at the Ledges State Park on the following morning. Officers elected in 1928 were: President, A. J. Palas, Des Moines; Vice-President, Dr. T. C. Stephens, Sioux City; Secretary, W. F. Kubichek, Cedar Rapids; Treasurer, Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, Ames. Executive Council: Walter M. Rosene, Ogden; Mrs. Mary L. Bailey, Sioux City; Mrs. W. G. DuMont, Des Moines.

Upon invitation from the Sioux City Bird Club our seventh annual meeting was held at Sioux City on May 10-11, 1929. This was also one of the best attended meetings. Dr. William Kilgore, Curator of the Museum at the University of Minnesota was our guest speaker and a fine program was carried out.

At the business session the following officers were elected: President, Walter W. Bennett, Sioux City; Vice-President, Mrs. Toni R. Wendelburg, Des Moines; Secretary, Mrs. Mary L. Bailey, Sioux City; Treasurer, O. P. Allert, McGregor. Executive Council: W. F. Kubichek, Cedar Rapids; T. H. Whitney, Atlantic; Dr. T. C. Stephens, Sioux City. It was suggested that we elect an editor for the publication work, and Dr. F. L. R. Roberts of Ames was elected as our first Editor. The Sioux City Bird Club spared no time or trouble to give us a fine entertainment while in their city, and this meeting will be long remembered. This was also a joint meeting with the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and there was a good attendance from our neighboring state.

To return the compliment of 1929, the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union invited us to a joint meeting with them in Omaha on May 16-17, 1930. This was held at the Castle Hotel and a good program was carried out. These officers were elected at the business session: President, Walter W. Bennett, Sioux City; Vice-President, Mrs. J. E. Stew-



art, Des Moines; Secretary, Mrs. Mary L. Bailey, Sioux City; Treasurer, O. P. Allert, McGregor; Editor, Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, Iowa City. Executive Council: Walter M. Rosene, Ogden; C. E. Hoskinson, Clarinda; A. J. Palas, Des Moines.

Our ninth annual meeting was held on May 8-9, 1931, at Hotel Montrose, Cedar Rapids. Here we were guests of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club, a young but enthusiastic group under the leadership of Professor Kubichek. An early morning rain delayed our field trip until later in the day, when we went for a short trip and finished with a fine dinner at noon at the Country Club. The officers elected at Cedar Rapids are our present officers: President, Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, Iowa City; Vice-President, Miss Myra G. Willis, Cedar Rapids; Secretary, Mrs. Mary L. Bailey, Sioux City; Treasurer, O. P. Allert, McGregor; Editor, Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop; Asst. Editor, C. E. Hoskinson, Clarinda. Executive Council: Walter W. Bennett, Sioux City; Dr. G. O. Hendrickson, Ames; Dr. C. E. Ehinger, Keokuk. The Cedar Rapids meeting has been quite fully described by Mrs. Bailey in the June, 1931, issue of "Iowa Bird Life."

It would be interesting to list the many fine papers and illustrated lectures given at all these meetings as well as the bird lists obtained on our various field trips; but space does not permit this. However, quite a number of our programs have been published in the *Wilson Bulletin*, and they may be found by consulting the following volumes of this magazine: 1924, XXXVI, pp. 111-112; 1925, XXXVII, pp. 189-190; 1926, XXXVIII, p. 180; 1929, XLI, pp. 199-200; 1930, XLII, p. 224. Also consult "The Bulletin of Iowa Ornithologists' Union" for 1929-30.

Each year our programs and field trips seem more interesting than ever before. Each year we see many new faces, make many new acquaintances and meet old friends. After all that is really the purpose of our organization—the cultivation of friendship, the dissemination of knowledge, and the protection of our birds. We are accomplishing all three things. Long live the Iowa Ornithologists' Union!

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEES

W. W. Bennett and W. M. Rosene, acting together as a committee on conservation, submitted to the Iowa Fish and Game Commission a set of resolutions. These resolutions stated the most urgent needs of bird conservation in Iowa to be a complete closed season on all shore birds and cessation of prosecution of our birds of prey. The Commission has indicated that it would receive and give careful attention to any suggestions the Iowa Ornithologists' Union would care to make. We feel confident that the members of our committee have clearly and forcefully stated the sentiments of our association in this report they have submitted.

Our committee on scientific bird collecting, consisting of O. E. Klingaman, chairman, and Dr. K. H. Struck, W. F. Kubichek, and Dr. Roberts, met and spent an afternoon at Davenport. They formulated as well as possible in the time available a set of resolutions. Considerable correspondence was necessary to get the set of resolutions in form to be submitted. Before this was completed, the Fish and Game Commission took action independently and cancelled all permits of those not directly connected with an educational institution. Tho the Commission was actuated by a spirit of conservation, we feel that their action, though it greatly improves conditions formerly existing, may be too restrictive. We are in no way responsible for this change as we



had made no comment or suggestion to the Fish and Game Commission. Mr. Albert had suggested this revision some time past. Our committee is planning on again meeting and working over a set of resolutions to meet this changed condition.—F. L. R. K.

## BIRD RECORDS

By T. C. STEPHENS

The field trip . . . is the source of our information about birds, or any other animals which we may wish to study. Those who merely want an incentive for walking in the open air may not care to go to the trouble of keeping "records" of their observations. But the greatest pleasure and profit will not be obtained without them. There will be many who will wish to make some use of the facts and information which may be secured in their own field work. It will be the object of the present article to discuss note-taking as one of the methods of field study.

### A NOTE-BOOK SYSTEM

The necessity of keeping notes and records has been urged. But the beginner may find that it is not easy to work up an adequate system of notes without considerable experience or some assistance. Every working ornithologist has his own method of recording his notes, which he has probably worked out with long experience, and which he thinks is the best. The writer believes that a card index system is too elaborate and expensive for the individual. The plan outlined below is probably the most common one, and has been found to meet the requirements of simplicity, convenience, adaptability, etc.

1. **Field Note-Book.** This is a small note-book of pocket size to be carried in the field, and kept in lead pencil. One which is bound on the side is preferable to one which is bound at the end, because the former may be held more rigidly in writing. In this book should be entered all the details concerning the time, place and weather conditions for each trip. These facts should be kept with particular accuracy. Then the list of species observed will follow, with accurate data as to the abundance of each. The question of abundance bears upon the subject of migration, as will be shown later.

Descriptions of unfamiliar species should be put down with great detail and accuracy. Observations on habits, song, behavior, etc., should be entered as fully as possible. This raises the question, when are such notes to be made? Some may think that time in the field is too valuable to be used in much note writing, and, of course, this may be true if the observer's purposes are considered. But the most reliable and valuable notes are those which are made on the spot and at the time of observation. Any other way is unscientific, and more or less slovenly and untrustworthy. If, later on, some doubt arises as to the accuracy of the observation, it may not be possible to repeat and verify it; whereas if more complete notes had been made at the time, the doubtful point might have been eliminated.

2. **The Day Book.** This is a loose-leaf note book, having a page about  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$  inches, into which are copied in ink (Higgins' Eternal ink is black and permanent) all the entries in the field book, except as noted below. It simply keeps the field notes in permanent form. As it is a copy of the field book, the notes are arranged in chronological order. In it also may be kept the list for each year.

3. **The Ledger Book.** This designation is by no means satisfactory, but is used because it may convey the thought that a separate account is kept for each species. The book itself should correspond in size and



kind to the day book. In it are collected on one page (or as many pages as may be needed) all special notes relating to that species. Notes on behavior, breeding, feeding habits, etc., may be entered in this book . . . .

4. **The Migration Record.** Various schemes have been suggested for the form of these blanks. But in general the page is ruled horizontally for the days in the month and vertically for the different years. The number of months and years to be shown on one page depends, of course, upon the size of the page as well as upon the size of the spaces desired. The data in the day book are distributed in this book by entering the facts of occurrence of a given species in the proper space indicating the day of the month and year for that species. For the species which are present the year round in a locality, spaces for twelve months will be required. For species which are migratory spaces will be required only for the months which are included within the migration period at a given station. When arranged compactly such a record shows at a glance the status of a species at a given station. It also forms a very useful index to the records in the day book. Of course such blank forms must be printed or machine ruled, because a very large number will be required for all the species of the area.

The last two note books deal with species separately, and hence are arranged in systematic order.

Keeping notes upon the foregoing plan means work, of course, and may not appeal to the majority—those who are seeking pleasure and recreation. But a great amount of pure satisfaction and pleasure will be derived in the gradual accumulation of information, some of which may be actual contributions to our knowledge of birds.

Notes which are not carefully and accurately kept by some such plan will probably have little scientific value, and that should be understood. The writer does not urge every bird lover to adopt an elaborate system of notes, but leaves him to go only so far in it as his inclination leads him. But it will probably do no harm for him to know when he is scientific and when he is not.—(Reprinted from *Iowa Conservation*, April-June, 1919.)

## THE ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union will be held at Des Moines, May 13 and 14, 1932. Hotel Savery has been selected as the Headquarters hotel and the meeting will be held there on Friday. Registration will take place at 9:00 A. M. Friday the 13th, followed by a forenoon program. The afternoon will be given over to another program and the business meeting. Two very important matters will come to our attention at the meetings, namely: the 25-year conservation program being mapped out under the law passed for this purpose at the last session of our legislature, and "What can we do to protect our hawks and owls?" In the evening there will be a banquet. Saturday morning will be the Annual Field Trip. There are very fine spots for bird observation around Des Moines, all accessible from paved and gravelled roads. There are lakes and marsh sites as well as open field and timbered tracts, so that water and shore birds as well as warblers and sparrows should be found in abundance. Bring your "hiking togs." Hip boots will not be necessary, but may be desirable if you have them. The field trip for all groups will end in the Bird Sanctuary of the Des Moines Water Works.

The Des Moines Audubon Society will be hosts to the visiting guests at a luncheon Saturday noon. This is the time for the compilation



of the annual bird list and the climax for the session. The Des Moines Audubon Society is looking for not less than 125 persons from outside of the city. With the Des Moines group there should be from 200 to 250 in attendance. With the paved roads leading from all directions such an attendance should be achieved.—A. J. PALAS.

### E. W. SELLS

It is with sincere regret that we announce the death of Emery Wyant Sells, at Paton, Iowa, on February 4, 1932, following a very brief illness. Mr. Sells was born at Webster City, Iowa, and moved to Humboldt County with his parents when a lad. Later he returned to Webster City, where he finished high school. He taught school for several years, after which he became a grain and livestock dealer. This business he followed for twenty-five years, at Paton for the greater part of the period. He was an enthusiastic nature lover and took particular interest in the study of birds. The pursuit of his favorite subject made him familiar with the woods and fields for miles around his home. He became a member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union in 1929.

An intimate friend said of Mr. Sells: "My experiences with him on all our field trips will always stand out in memory as bright spots, for he was always so cheerful and optimistic. I consider him one of the finest men I ever met."

### GENERAL NOTES

**Some 1931 Fall Notes from Central Iowa.**—The following migration data from central Iowa may prove of interest to observers in other parts of the state.

The last half of August and September, 1931, was characterized by very warm weather and generally dry throughout. Many ponds were completely dry and few suitable areas for shore-birds were to be found. Migration in general was somewhat retarded.

The first Green-winged Teal were noted at Des Moines, September 6, by A. J. Palas. Wood Ducks were seen in Polk County for the first time in many years. Three were observed September 20, and one female on September 23. A Pigeon Hawk was seen by A. T. Watson and P. A. DuMont on September 11.

The King, Virginia and Sora Rails were all noted at Des Moines during September. A single Dowitcher was seen September 20. This bird may belong to the new sub-species *Limnodramus g. hendersoni* (Auk, XLIX, p. 22). A completely albinistic Spotted Sandpiper was seen with another in normal plumage on September 25. On September 24, a flock of ten Ring-billed Gulls and two Caspian Terns were seen at Des Moines by the Stewarts. Two Bonaparte's Gulls were seen September 25 by Watson, Nelson and DuMont. This is our first Polk County record.

The southward flight of Flickers was most pronounced on September 23, when three to four hundred were seen in Des Moines. The flight of Cliff Swallows commenced August 30 when 200 were noted, and on September 7, a flock estimated to contain at least 3000 birds was seen near Brenton's Slough, northwest of Des Moines. About 200 Bank Swallows were with the others in this flight.

The flight of Blue Jays was first noticed September 20 when a flock of sixty was observed. On the 23rd, over 200 were counted in one hour. The first Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen (collected) September 23.



Brown Thrashers were found most numerous on the same date, when between fifty and sixty were seen. The first movement of Bluebirds was September 7, when sixty were found in one locality, and on September 25, seventy-five were seen. The first Blue-headed Vireo was seen September 7.

The height of the Nashville Warbler migration was September 23, when at least a hundred were found feeding in the ironweed and wild hemp. About twenty-five Tennessee Warblers were seen with them. The first Myrtle Warblers and Palm Warblers were found September 25. A single female Connecticut Warbler was seen August 30. The greatest number of Savannah Sparrows were seen September 20, when about a hundred were found. Pairs of Nelson's Sparrows were found on August 30, September 7 and 20.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, Berkeley, California.

**Publications on Iowa Ornithology during 1931.**—No doubt all magazines containing Iowa matter have not been examined, but it is believed that the following list is quite complete:

Walter W. Bennett: Birds of Sioux City, Iowa, (*Sioux City Bird Club*) 1931, pp. 1-18.

Mrs. Marie Dales: A Virginia Rail Spends a Day in the City, *Wilson Bulletin*, 1931, p. 310.

Philip A. DuMont: Birds of Polk County, Iowa, (*Des Moines Audubon Society*) 1931, pp. 1-72; Starlings in Washington County, Iowa, *Wilson Bulletin*, 1931, p. 308.

H. E. Jaques: The Golden Eagle in Southeastern Iowa, *Wilson Bulletin*, 1931, p. 58.

Gertrude Mansfield: Bird-Life on a City Lot, *Bird-Lore*, 1931, pp. 311-315.

E. D. Nauman: An Oddly Colored Harris's Sparrow, *Wilson Bulletin*, 1931, p. 59; Erratic Movements of the Red-headed Woodpecker, *Wilson Bulletin*, 1931, p. 147.

Fred J. Pierce: The Yellow-throated Vireo Nesting in Buchanan County, Iowa, *Wilson Bulletin*, 1931, p. 312.

Ben K. Polk: A Hint on the Character of Catbirds, *Wilson Bulletin*, 1931, pp. 60-61.

Althea R. Sherman: Migrating Blue Jays, *The Auk*, 1931, pp. 272-273; The Gambel's Sparrow at National, Iowa, *Wilson Bulletin*, 1931, p. 154.

T. C. Stephens: Bird Records of Two Winters, 1920-1922, in the Upper Missouri Valley, *Proceedings of Iowa Academy of Science*, 1930, pp. 357-366.

Margaret L. Weir: The Breeding of the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher in Northwestern Iowa, *Wilson Bulletin*, 1931, p. 230.

William Youngworth: *Wilson Bulletin*, 1931—The Carolina Wren in Northwestern Iowa, p. 58; Unusual Food of the Baltimore Oriole, p. 58; The Pugnacity of a Nighthawk, p. 58; Traill's Flycatcher Nesting at Sioux City, Iowa, p. 59; Some Warbler Records at Sioux City, Iowa, pp. 63-65; Migration Notes on Swans West of the Mississippi, pp. 151-152; Migration Notes from Sioux City, Iowa, p. 223; The American Egret and Least Tern in South Dakota, pp. 309-310.

*Bird-Lore* published Christmas censuses from twelve localities in Iowa in the Jan.-Feb., 1931, issue (pp. 64-67). These were reviewed in the March, 1931, issue of 'Iowa Bird Life.'

During the year 'Iowa Bird Life' published fifty articles on Iowa birds. These were written by thirty-three persons. Although we did not publish an index at the close of the year, we plan to take care of



this later. If we continue to publish fifty or sixty pages to the yearly volume, at the end of four or five years we should have a book of a size suitable for binding. The present editor would like to publish a cumulative index at the end of that period, and should he still be the incumbent at that time, the index will no doubt be compiled and published as a supplement for binding with the magazine.—F. J. P.

**The 1931 Christmas Bird Census in Iowa.**—A study of the 1931 census in Iowa, published in the January-February, 1932, issue of *Bird-Lore*, (pp. 66-68), reveals some interesting facts. Six localities are represented: Buchanan County, Des Moines, Keokuk, Ogden, Sigourney, and Sioux City. On the combined lists 48 species are recorded (there were 53 in 1930). These are given below. The figure following the name indicates the number of lists on which that particular species appeared.

Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Common Canada Goose, 1; Common Mallard, 1; American Pintail, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 1; American Merganser, 1; Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Northern Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; American Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Eastern Sparrow Hawk, 1; Eastern Bob-white, 4; Ring-necked Pheasant, 3; Herring Gull, 1; Eastern Mourning Dove, 1; Eastern Screech Owl, 2; Northern Barred Owl, 3; Short-eared Owl, 1; Eastern Belted Kingfisher, 1; Northern Flicker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 5; Prairie Horned Lark, 3; Northern Blue Jay, 5; Eastern Crow, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 3; Eastern Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 1; Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Bohemian Waxwing, 1; Migrant Shrike, 1; Eastern Red-wing, 1; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Eastern Cardinal, 6; Eastern Purple Finch, 2; Common Redpoll, 1; Eastern Goldfinch, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 6; Eastern Tree Sparrow, 6; Eastern Song Sparrow, 2.

The Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Merganser, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Mourning Dove, Kingfisher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, and Redpoll were seen only at Des Moines. The Double-crested Cormorant, Herring Gull, Winter Wren, and Carolina Wren were seen only at Keokuk. Sioux City had the Bluebird and Bohemian Waxwing not seen elsewhere. The Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl were reported from Buchanan County only, while from Sigourney came the only Shrike record.—F. J. P.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**A Retreat?** In our last issue I published an article entitled "A Call To Arms!" *Nature Magazine* considered it of sufficient importance to copy on its pages. In this article I challenged our members to submit to their local papers articles on bird conservation. I cannot believe that the results of my request are as meager as reports indicate. Only four told me that they had submitted articles. These people were Mrs. Chas. M. Moser, Mrs. Wm. Buzby, B. O. Wolden, and Mrs. Roberts. I know that this cannot be the total list, which should include several articles I have written; but the result is a very small fraction of the 200 I had mentioned as a goal.

Of course, there are many other ways of furthering the cause of conservation. For example, we have had at least two committees that have given considerable time; our officers have been active; one of our members is treasurer of a national ornithological association, and



another is editor of a bird journal having nation-wide circulation; and some of our members are active lecturers. If the apathy of bird lovers were really as great as these replies seem to indicate, we might well feel that conservation is a lost cause. I do not believe that a request of this kind will go unheeded. We are the guardians of our feathered friends. Let us have in our next edition a long Honor Roll of members who have submitted articles to their local papers.—DR. F. L. R. ROBERTS.

\* \* \*

New Iowa members enrolled since our last issue are: Mrs. Wm. Kent, Nashua; Wm. Buzby, Boone; Mrs. John M. Pierce, Winthrop; Miss Eleanor C. K. Bruner, Marcus; Miss Loraine Hallowell, Waterloo; Mrs. C. J. Wonser, Tama; State Fish and Game Dept., Des Moines; Mrs. C. C. Dickman, Sumner.

New subscribers are: McGill University Library, Montreal, Quebec; Raymond O. Marshall, Leetonia, Ohio.

Mrs. Wm. Buzby has very kindly consented to accept the chairmanship of a committee for securing new members. We appreciate Mrs. Buzby's fine spirit of co-operation and wish her success in a task that we know is not an easy one. We suggest that you send her the names of prospective members. Her address is 221 Greene St., Boone, Iowa.

Treasurer Allert begs the indulgence of those members who have paid their dues but have not received the usual receipt card. Due to a delay in printing, he has been without the cards during the past month.

Miss Althea R. Sherman has made the Union a present of five dollars to be used in our publication work. We are very grateful to Miss Sherman for this gift.

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Dr. Carroll Lane Fenton several years ago published "Birds of Floyd County, Iowa," an annotated list of some 230 species which covered 61 pages of text. The list for this northern Iowa county should be in the hands of Iowa bird students, and our readers will welcome Dr. Fenton's decision to make it available to them at cost. As long as his supply lasts, he will send the booklet prepaid for twenty cents a copy. Write to him at 915 Columbus St., West Liberty, Iowa.



Dr. Fenton is on leave of absence from an eastern university and will be in Iowa for a time. His work as a paleontologist leaves him time for lecturing at present, and he has been filling dates both in the East and in Iowa. Two of his lectures—"Paths and Peaks of the Rockies" and "Trails of a Fossil Hunter"—include a good deal of natural history material and have proved popular with clubs and college groups. He is also prepared to give "Art of the Old Stone Age," "Rambles in Old Canada" and other lectures.

\* \* \*

President Roberts is doing considerable publicity work for the cause of conservation. He has been requested to submit to Mr. Carveth Wells notes on conservation to be used in Mr. Wells' broadcasts over the N. B. C. network every Sunday at 10 A. M. *Nature Magazine* will next month contain a short article on conservation of hawks and owls by Dr. Roberts. He will also supply the Iowa Fish and Game Commission news service with notes to be used in its News Release which goes to



most of the Iowa newspapers. A lecture that he will give on the evening of April 4, for the Child Welfare Station, will be broadcast from Station WSUI of Iowa City.

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Two articles from 'Iowa Bird Life' have been reprinted by the "Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society" recently. They were "Our Brown Thrashers," by Mrs. Buzby, in our September issue, and "Cheated Out of a Dinner," by Mr. Nauman, in the issue for last March.

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Those of our members attending the annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club, held at New Orleans, December 28-29, 1931, were: Oscar P. Allert, McGregor; Chas. J. Spiker, New Hampton; Dr. T. C. Stephens, Sioux City; and W. F. Kubichek, Cedar Rapids. Allert and Spiker drove down in the latter's Ford; Mrs. Allert accompanied them.

\* \* \*

Through the kindness of Mr. Bennett, author of "How to Know Iowa Hawks" in our last issue, a copy of this useful guide (printed as a field key) is being sent to each member of the Union. Mr. Bennett will furnish further copies to anyone wishing them as long as his supply of reprints lasts. Write to him at Arnolds Park, Iowa.

\* \* \*

We have received word from the University of South Dakota that the supply of their publication "Birds of South Dakota," by Over and Thoms (1921), is now getting low. We urge our members who do not already have this book to send for it before the stock is exhausted. Treating in quite a thorough manner the birds of our neighboring state, this book is very useful to Iowa bird students who are interested in the distribution of bird life. The book contains 142 pages, is illustrated by one colored and twenty halftone plates, and is bound in heavy wrappers. It is sold for one dollar a copy. Write to the University at Vermillion, S. Dak.

\* \* \*

Philip A. DuMont, formerly a Des Moines member, is now working in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, under Dr. Joseph Grinnell. He recently made a trip from Florida to California by way of the Panama Canal, and reports seeing about fifty species of birds about Panama City and Balboa. His list for January was well over 150, and about 100 were additions to his Life-list. Mr. DuMont's travels in the last two years have been very extensive, and have included a trip to Madagascar with an American Museum expedition. No doubt his Life-list is now a very large one.

\* \* \*

**The Oologist.**—This little magazine is the second oldest ornithological journal in the United States. It is printed on enamel book paper, is well illustrated and contains articles by and for both amateurs and professionals. It has withstood the vicissitudes of nearly a half century of publication, during which time the status and numbers of egg collectors have doubtless considerably changed; but it is still very popular. Where else can one get an illustrated monthly bird magazine for the sum of fifty cents a year? We wish Mr. Barnes and his magazine continued success.

\* \* \*

Our members will be glad to hear of the early publication of the new two-volume "Birds of Minnesota," by Dr. Thos. S. Roberts. Dr. Roberts is one of the foremost ornithologists of the Middle West. He has been Director of the Museum at the University of Minnesota for many years and knows intimately the bird life of that state as no one



else does. Because most Minnesota birds migrate through Iowa, and because many of our species are also resident in that state, these volumes will be particularly helpful to all Iowa bird students.

The writer was shown copy and plates recently by Dr. Roberts, and he can highly recommend this work. Over 280 species are shown on colored plates by Horsfall, Brooks, Breckenridge and others. It costs over \$14.00 per set for the printing alone, but it is to be sold for \$6.00 per set (address the University Press, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn).—WALTER W. BENNETT.

\* \* \*

A photograph of George D. Peck, our 92-year-old Oregon member, and a hunting boat which he built, is reproduced in the January, 1932, issue of *The Oologist*.

\* \* \*

## MEMBERSHIP ROLL OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Numbers following names indicate years of joining the Union. In order to save space, street addresses are omitted. In the list of libraries our exchanges are also included. All cities given are within Iowa unless otherwise indicated.

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**DECEASED MEMBERS:** H. M. Bailey, died April 27, 1924; Rev. George Bennett, August, 1928; Gertrude Mansfield Cole, 1929; Elizabeth Lichty, October 19, 1930; Flora May Tuttle, February 3, 1931; Dr. LeRoy Titus Weeks, March 4, 1927; Thomas H. Whitney, September 10, 1929; Billy Williams, 1929. (Further data regarding the list of deceased members should be sent to the Secretary.)



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