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OGDEN, IOWA Oct 20 1928

Phil DuMont

New York, N.Y.

Dear Phil:-

I have carried your letter around in my pocket for about three weeks intending to answer it but there seems to be always something to prevent. I have a few moments this afternoon so here goes.

I am sure that you and Kenney are having plenty of good times together and I only wish that I might be with you or at least a mouse in the corner to listen in on your "bird conversation". About the only thing of interest that I have to report since my last letter is my trip to Long Pond for the Waterfowl Census on the 13th of October. Junior and I spent the entire forenoon there and had shot guns with us but brought back no ducks. We counted between 80 and 90 but were only able to identify two Shovellers since the others were too far away. Several hunters were stationed around the pond and as soon as a lone duck would appear on the horizon the bombardment would start and of course the duck would start back for Canada.

I listed a nice lot of LeConte Sparrows and Swamp Sparrows also some American Bitterns, Great Blue Heron, Herring Gull, Franklin Gull, Wilson Snipe, Savanna Sparrows, Redwings, both Meadowlarks, and from 800 to 1000 Coots. There were also three Pied Billed Grebes. My list for 1928 is now 169 being just one ahead of the 1927 list. I am still hoping to get one or two more as I have missed the Red Breasted Nuthatch, Horned Owl, Pine Siskin, Redpoll and a number of others which I still might see.

Your fall list of Warblers fairly makes me sick as I have seen only a very few. As a matter of fact I never see many in the fall and I am beginning to think that their return trip must be over a different route. What do you think about that?

I forgot to mention that there were plenty of Long Billed Marsh Wrens at Long Pond also.

Oberholser left Mc Gregor the next day after I arrived and I did not get much of any chance to talk with him so your matter was not brought up.

I think Hoover will carry Iowa but it will require work to do it. There are lots of "crazy" folks who seem to have lost their sense of reasoning power altogether. To have a man of the type of Smith as the leader of our nation to my mind would be a disgrace to our country. I certainly hope that he will snowed under so badly that he will not attempt it again and that the powers behind him will stay where they rightfully belong.

In my coin collection numbering over 1800 varieties I also have a section devoted to campaign buttons, medals and badges from all the different campaigns clear back to that of William Henry Harrison and they form a very interesting collection especially at this time.

I have a number of different kinds of Hoover and Smith buttons but am looking for more. If you can get me an assortment send them along and I will gladly pay the postage on them as they are given away.



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Thyra plans to start her senior year at Iowa City the first of the year

I am planning on a window display of these soon as everyone is interested in politics at this time.

When a fellow of the type of Smith comes out into the great middle west for the first time in his life and tries to make the farmers believe that he understands all their troubles and is in favor of the great so called "farm relief" it all seems like a big joke to me. It would be just like an Iowa farmer going down to Tammany Hall to tell them how to run their business.

Thyra has been busy making up the work she missed during her sickness last spring when she lost out on all her final examinations. She has now taken all of them and has done very well. She got a 92 in one subject and I think her lowest was 85 and her average should be up around 89 or 90. She is a much better student than Junior.

His greatest ambition seems to be to take the old Ford apart and grease himself all up getting all the nuts screwed back together again. He went out for foot ball this fall but they had no games this being our very first year for foot ball. He is now trying a little basket ball. He has grown until he is an inch taller than "Dad" so he feels rather big and when you come back next summer he will no doubt "look down on you".

He is working at an oil station during his spare time now and gets up before six every morning and works a couple of hours there before going to school. He also works Saturdays. I like to have him kept busy as that is the best thing in the world for him.

Regarding me giving away any copies of my life notes on birds can say that there is only one copy and that is the original and believe me that cost a lot of hard labor and plenty of good time.

I am now busy compiling my 1928 records and after Jan 1st I will enter all those with typewriter also making 11 years records.

When you come out next summer I want your expert advice on the book as I am depending on you for my contacts with the "big guns" of the east who really know their stuff.

I have not entered anything on the back of the sheets yet and hardly think that I will. Oberholser suggested that I not do it but keep my other data in another book and have my records on the right hand page of the book only.

I had one Steppans School cases of birds come up here last week and we showed it to all the grade pupils and I talked to them for 45 minute. The case was here also for the teachers meeting when 125 teachers were here and I know good will result from my efforts as nature study will soon be a part of our school work here.

Tell Kenney that I have not heard from him for so many years that I wonder if he has forgotten me altogether. Perhaps it is my turn to write. You may let him read this letter if you care to and it will serve to both of you as I would really have to write the same thing to him. Kindest regards to you both and I hope to hear from you when you have a few moments of time to spare.

Your friend,

Walter