

BIRD HARBOR NURSERY

M. A. STEMPEL, PROP'R



Macedonia, Iowa, Nov. 12th 1934

Du Mont
July
Mr. Philip A. Du Mont.

Dear Mr. Du Mont:

Dear Sir: Your letter of 11-9-34 at hand. Will say in reply, any aid our family can give you or your office will be freely given. Father left quite a few written memoranda and as soon as I can locate them will look them over for any data in regards to the collection and if any you will be welcome to them. I was rather suddenly called to Cobbley and did not stop to bid you good bye as I should have. We have often thought of trying to classify and name the birds in the collection but not being very familiar with them gave it up as to much of a job for us to undertake. I spoke of this to Mr. Johann and he kindly said he would try and help as soon as he could find the time. I also have a son in the University at Iowa City who is making a study of this work at present and will be able to help us on his return. I think your suggestion very good but as our finances are very limited will have to hold off till things ease up a bit.

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We certainly appreciate any aid you may give us in this work. The M^r Corvair's Longspoon appeared here several different winters in the late 80^s and early 90^s. Can remember of father speaking of them. The same during our most severe winters and I am sure that two or three winters ago I saw them out on the higher ground that had been swept clear of snow. They generally did not appear until late in December and in January. The specimens you mention in the collection were taken during the early 90^s as the first 6 cases were mounted before that time. They were taken here in Pottawattamie Co. Iowa. The Prairie Falcon, Montana Horned Owl, and Night Hawks were taken here and between 1890 and 1900. The Ruffed Grouse was taken about 1888 or before as the party who killed this bird left here about that time. The Whip-poor-will also taken here, they are rather plentiful along the Missouri river both North and South of Co. Bluffs. up to about 1875 the Ruffed Grouse was plentiful in the large timber here which is now almost all

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cut off. As regards the Henslow, and Nelsons sparrow I cannot say until I am sure of which ones you mean. I know most of the birds by sight but not by name and can probably tell you if they ever occurred here. The Cross Bills are rather frequent visitors here coming daily in the fall some times and remaining all winter. Last winter there was a flock of about 20 of them along the river feeding on hemp mostly saw them several times and from the size of the flock came to the conclusion they were the same birds as they were observed in a radius of about 2 or 3 miles. The last Woodcocks were seen about 1986 or 1987. The Water Angel you no doubt saw in the one case was taken at Hastings, Iowa about 15 miles south of here. He appeared here after a 3 days very high wind from the N.W. This often occurs in the bird life as well as butterflies. The Cinnamon Teal in the collection was taken by myself about 1930. in the latter part of April. He was with a flock of Bless Wings. The Bald Eagle was caught in

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a steel trap about 6 or 7 miles east of town some time in the late 80's. Father's name was Guido. Louis. Stempel. The name in that envelop was a mistake. He died Dec. 13-1917. The birds in the first 6 cases to the South were taken 1884 to 1886. The most of the balance from that date to about 1904 or '05. Anything we can ^{do} towards helping our state in biology or any other scientific work you can be sure will gladly be done. We have quite a few of our schools from surrounding towns interested in our collection and identification slacks would be a wonderful help to us and them also.

You have our permission to publish what you wish in regards to the Stempel collection. Would be very much interested in the article and hope you can send us a copy when published. Father made a specialty of the smaller birds and left the larger ones to my brother and myself also got many of the specimens from other hunters. A great many of the specimens I got I can recall where and the year when I got them. So if you are ever here again I may

- over -

be able to give fairly accurate data in regard
to many of them. Have also spent 50 years
in observation of our feathered friends so may
be of some help to you in our South Western
Ina bird life.

Respect yours -
M. A. Stempel.

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