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Iowa Ornithologists' Union

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Oct 18 1926

Phil Du Mont

New York City.

Dear Phil:-

Your fine long letter just received and like the author it was just to my taste.

You certainly are having a very interesting experience down there among the foreigners and away from the birds and we hope to see you back in Gods Country before many moons again and hear the call of the wild.

Kenney brought up your masterpiece on the one hundred most common birds of Polk County and I want to thank you for the privilege of examining it. I have read every word of it and it is well prepared and represents a lot of hard work I am sure.

I did not compare your dates with my records as that would have taken a lot more time however I agree with you pretty well on everything for Boone County as being about the same as Polk County.

However I count the Yellow Billed Cuckoo much more common than the Black Billed also with us the Western Meadowlark is much more common than the Eastern. I also consider the Orchard Oriole as a rare bird here in comparison with the Baltimore in fact some years pass by that I do not list a single Orchard Oriole. Baltimore is quite common. I also count the Tree Swallow as rather exceptional.

Also I would substitute the Olive Backed Thrush for the Wilson as it is much more common.

Just had a few lines from Dr Stephens asking if I can attend the annual meeting of the Wilson Club at Chicago next month and in the same mail I had a letter from the Secretary Mr Gloyd from the University at Ottawa Kansas asking me to appear on the program. Ahem. Didn't know I was in the class with those professors at all. Hardly think that I can attend but I may write up a paper and send in to be read.

What do you think about writing up our day of over a hundred birds?

Do you think that would interest those old boys as much as it did us ~~fell~~ fellows on that memorable day last May. I'll never forget the thrill of seeing that nice flock of Golden Plovers and as you no doubt noticed Kenney is trying to get other data on this bird. It will be interesting to see what replies he gets on this.

We spent Saturday and Sunday at Grinnell at their homecoming and watched the foot ball game that resulted in a scoreless tie. SOME GAME.

Have done very little bird work this fall so have very little to report. Wish you might be with us again next spring and if you are "delivered out of the hands of the Philistines" by that time we will welcpe you back to the good old praries and woodlands of Iowa. Hoping to hear from you when you have time and with kindest regards I am as ever,

your friend, Walter

I will bring your thesis along with me the next time I go to Des Moines and give it to Kenney. Many thanks.