

The Wilson Ornithological Club

FOUNDED, FALL RIVER, MASS., DECEMBER 3, 1888

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The Wilson Bulletin

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Ogden, Iowa.

May 15 1933

Phil Du Mont

Iowa City, Iowa.

Dear Phil:-

You old rascal, you should have been with us yesterday as we talked down at Fairfield as we needed an expert on some of the tough ones.

As it was we got a list of 122 which beats all our former records and still we failed to get some of the common ones.

I am enclosing a duplicate card for your use and if you find anything that looks out of line just let me know.

The common ones that we failed to find were the Sapsucker, Lark Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, White Crowned Sparrow, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl and many more.

We did not list any without good identification, especially the Sparrows. It has been my great pleasure this spring to have learned to identify the Nelsons Sparrow and I am absolutely sure of it now according to the descriptions in Roberts Birds of Minnesota.

Bob and I worked for nearly an hour the other morning trying to corner one of the little rascals which I thought was not a Le Conte and after getting several good observations of him we can see there is a lot of difference. The main thing is to get your glasses on him at all.

We started our morning by checking all the small ponds just north of Ogden and had a list of sixty birds before we got to the woods.

Then our list grew fast so that when we left the woods about 10 o'clock we were sure of beating our record. We then went down south west of Ogden to the big slough just north of Rippey and came back by way of the Beaver Creek bayou. At noon our list stood at 104 which was better than our last years record of 103 for all day.

In the afternoon we went to the Ledges where we got some Warblers and then went off to Little Wall Lake and got a lot more ducks, terns and gulls and coming home after dark we stopped in the timber to listen to the whip poor wills which brought us up to 122 for the day.

I got up at about 4 A.M. but we started at 5 A.M. and spent just about 13 hours in actual field observation.

It was a wonderful day as the conditions were just about ideal.

It was really the first fine day we have had after a week of cold, cloudy drizzly weather which held a lot of the stuff back for us.

If you know of anyone in Iowa who has a better single days record I would like to know who they are. Bob says that next year "we sure will have something to shoot at". Conditions will have to be perfect if we can exceed it.

I waited in vain for you late Saturday evening as you had not written so I expected you sure. We certainly missed you.

Walter

There were three Terns up at Little Wall Lake that were either Forsters or Common but after listening to the arguments at Fairfield about those birds we did not list them at all.