

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF BIRDS AT LITTLE WALL LAKE

July 7, 1928

To the Editor of the Des Moines Register and Tribune:-

During a two weeks visit in Des Moines recently, I spent a great deal of the time out on field trips to study the birds in Central Iowa.

On June 12th Kenneth Nelson and I were at Little Wall Lake, a few miles south of Jewell. It was interesting to find that there were many kinds of water birds still on the Lake even that late in the season,- Black Terns, Blue-winged Teals, Coots, and even a pair of Canvas-backs were very much at home.

Yet along the entire southeast side the remains of many dead birds, fish, and turtles had been washed up on the shore. These birds appeared to have been dead five weeks, but they showed no signs of having been shot. There were several hundred turtles, two species of snakes, over thirty Coots, about the same number of Florida Gallinules, one male Mallard, one Redhead, two female Lesser Scaups, one Canvas-back, one Horned Grebe, six Piedbilled Grebes, and one Teal, which had been dead too long to determine the species.

We were unable to explain what had caused this destruction. Could it have been caused by dynamiting for fish?

Philip A. Du Mont