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OGDEN, IOWA Apr 20 1929

Phil DuMont

Dunedin, Fla.

Dear Phil:-

I have been patiently waiting for a long time to get a reply from my letter to you last winter and could not figure out the reason why but day before yesterday we went to Des Moines and since Mrs Rosen and Mrs Ganoë were along with me we of course had to go to see your mother. While talking with her I learned that you are now a full fledged "Prof" and then I thought - "No wonder I have not heard from him". I suppose that you are teaching those southerners to swim like a school of porpoise or sharks. Here's luck to you. In order to make you real homesick for home let me advise you that the first Brown Thrasher was perched on the topmost branch of one of your mothers trees singing as only a Thrasher can sing while over in Dad's big brush pile there was a Cardinal whistling as lustily as only an Iowa cardinal can whistle when he is calling his mate in April. Chipping Sparrows were singing over in the field while in the apple trees the Ruby Crowned Kinglets were busy at work and singing their beautiful little song which is so fitting to those little sprites. We bought some Lilacs and ~~I~~ais and had a nice visit with your mother (Dad was down town) and promised to come down again soon. She informed me that you were coming home this spring and I want to hereby extend you the usual hearty invitation to come to Ogden for that all day hike after the 100 varieties. Maybe I can get the Golden Plovers again if you are with me. Junior is graduating this spring and Bob has a job in Ft Dodge so I have been compelled to go alone a great deal of the time this spring. I am keeping my list up a little ahead of last year so far. Don't know how long I can do this. I have 82 so far for 1929. My family of Barred Owls are again nesting in the same old stump as last year and I am watching them and getting data on food contents about every other day. I am to give a short illustrated talk on Owls at the Sioux City meeting on May 10th so am preparing for that. Wish you might be with us then as we will meet with Nebraska and are planning on a good time together. I am also going up to Spirit Lake on the return trip and visit with Dr Roberts our Editor of the Bulletin. Mrs Rosen is going along and if you are home there will be a back seat for you to ride in. Better come, Phil. I have four new birds on my life list for 1929 so that list is gradually climbing. My new ones are Snowy Owl, Snow Bunting, Horned Lark and Henslow's Sparrow. Junior and Bob and I spent all of last Sunday at Long Pond and found Mr and Mrs Palas there too. We got ten varieties of Ducks and the Blue Geese and White Fronted Geese too besides about 1500 Coots. There were more birds but not quite so many varieties as last year on Apr 1st. Write me a line when you have time and please plan on that all day trip in Ogden in May.

Walter