

February 9, 1944

Prof. George O. Hendrickson,
Assistant Leader, Iowa Coop.
Wildlife Research Unit,
Iowa State College,
Ames, Iowa.

Dear Prof. Hendrickson:

I have delayed in answering your letter of December 13 in the hopes that I might be able to send you information on the availability of copies of the *THE OOLOGIST* for April 1934 which contained the list of "The Breeding Birds of Iowa". I wrote to R.M. Barnes of Lacon, Illinois, the owner and publisher of the journal but so far there has been no reply. In it I listed 144 species and subspecies of birds which have been found as breeders in Iowa during the past two (1915 to 1934) decades. Several others were included in the listed with the suggestion that they be studied.

Another short note in the *OOLOGIST* for July 1935 listed 5 additional species which had been found. The recent nesting of the American Egret along the Mississippi River would add still another so that the list of breeding birds should now number at least 150.

If you care to look these up in the library they are as follows: Vol. LI, No. 5, May 1934, pp. 50-66; Vol. LII, No. 7, July 1935, pp. 83-84.

The other question concerned additions to the Iowa list. I am enclosing two copies of a reprint from the *WILSON BULLETIN*, XLVII, September 1935, pp. 205-208, which reviews the existence of specimens as cited in the list. The last three paragraphs summarize the additions to the "Revised List of the Birds of Iowa" within the first year after its publication.

As you suggested there are more recent additions which have been published on in the various journals. Mr. Stiles' glaucous gull is an example. Another is the knot, which was substantiated by a specimen now in your collection. I think there are others of which I have notations on my inter-paged copy of the "List".

It would be an excellent idea for some-one to begin working up another short note that would summarize these recent additions. There has also been some taxonomic changes that might or might not be included. For instance, specimens of savannah sparrows which I loaned to Peters and Griscom when they were revising that group show at least one, if not two, new races for Iowa. The red cross-bill group is about the same. On the other hand, until these changes are accepted in the A.O.U. Check-List no one cares much to put such information on record.

You will note that on page 208 of the WILSON BULLETIN reprint under McCowan's longspur I listed specimens in the Stempel collection. I did see this collection and have notes on the specimens including the water ouzel. I was certain that I had prepared a note on this collection for publication in IOWA BIRD LIFE, such as I did on a number of other Iowa collections, but I fail to find it there or in my manuscript files. I have have looked up these notes as well as the correspondence which I had with Mr. M. A. Stempel at the time.

Since you evidently have seen the collection rather recently I am going to take the liberty of sending you this correspondence together with copies of my notes in the hopes that you will prepare a note for publication in IOWA BIRD LIFE, or at least undertake it as senior author if you prefer a joint authorship.

In reviewing the information supplied by Macks Stempel there seems to be no reason why the water ouzel record should not be considered satisfactory. It is true that the Check-List contains accidental records only for the Black Hills and western Nebraska, but the accidental occurrence of birds more than 1000 miles from their normal habitat have been previously noted.

When you have finished with the file of correspondence I would like to have it returned. I meant to tell you, that I have no extra copies of the breeding bird list. I wrote to Mr. Barnes to learn if he had extra copies to sell. Since his publication has now been discontinued I thought maybe he might be interested in selling any extra copies. Will let you know if I hear on this.

Very truly yours,

Philip A. DuMont,
Senior Administrative Assistant
Division of Wildlife Refuges