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306 E. Jefferson,
Iowa City, Iowa.
April 22, 1933.

Mr. Wade Guenther, Editor,
The Sabula Gazette,
Sabula, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Guenther:

Your letter concerning the collection of birds in Mr. Giddings' home, was received by me this morning. I am glad to send you what facts I have of his collection, with some observations about a few of the specimens.

This collection is not the largest private collection in the state. There are several larger, but probably few that are as old. The greatest value in the collection is in the fact that practically all of the birds were taken around the Giddings home at Sabula. In the same way it definitely lacks any great amount of value because no data has been attached to the specimens. Fortunately Mr. Giddings can remember where most of them were taken and very close to the date. A complete record may be contained in his journal, and if so at a very early time a record should be made for each specimen, giving the place where taken, either Sabula, Iowa or just Jackson county, and the date with at least month and year. Even Mr. Giddings' name as collector should be added. The name of the bird can be supplied by any-one but only Mr. Giddings can tell where and when they were taken, and if this is not done while he is alive, the collection will be of little value except as some birds to look at. If you are interested enough to try and get this done you will be performing a real service to science. So much for that.

The birds are very well mounted, and give one a good idea of the birds about Sabula. The mounted collection of Warblers is especially fine, and contains twenty-two different kinds. Of these the Kentucky, Pine, and Cape May Warblers are somewhat rare in Iowa and few specimens are preserved in the state. Mr. Giddings has a specimen of the Bendires Crossbill, a Rocky Mountain bird that wanders into Iowa very rarely. I know of only seven others records for the state, and this specimen is the farthest east it has been found in the U.S.

Another specimen which is of great importance as a record is a Pacific Loon, shot on the Mississippi River, in front of Sabula, by W. H. Aldrich, November 16, 1895. It is an immature male, and as far as I know it is the only preserved specimen of the bird that has been found in the Mississippi Valley region. It is found commonly on the Pacific coast, but is only known to have occurred once in Arizona, New Mexico, New Hampshire, New York, and this record from Iowa. All other records of it being west of the Rockies. The specimen has no great monetary value but it should very certainly be preserved, and finally deposited in a museum where it would be preserved indefinitely.

Perhaps you will be interested in my study of the collection. There are perhaps a few over 106 birds that were taken in Jackson county. One or two others were taken elsewhere. If you should care to publish the entire list of specimens it would serve as a directory for those interested in viewing the collection. I am enclosing such a list.

Very truly yours,

List of 106 Birds in the H.J. Giddings

Collection, taken in Jackson County, Iowa.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird -two	Robin -two
Song Sparrow	Blue Jay -two
Spotted Sandpiper	Bob-white -two
Lesser Yellowlegs	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Whip-poor-will	Yellow Warbler
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Cedar Waxwing
Pine Siskin - two	Indigo Bunting
Wilson's Snipe	Red-winged Blackbird -two
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Yellow-throated Vireo
Rusty Blackbird	Downy Woodpecker
Black Tern	Lapland Longspur
Ruffed Grouse	Black-billed Cuckoo
Killdeer	Tree Sparrow
Bendire's Crossbill- rare	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Fox Sparrow	Prairie Horned Lark
Common Redpoll -two	Purple Finch
Wood Duck	Scarlet Tanager
Wood Thrush	Eastern Meadow-lark
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Baltimore Oriole
Bobolink	Northern Yellow-throat
Bronzed Grackle	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue-headed Vireo	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Red-eyed Towhee	Belted Kingfisher
Cardinal	American Goldfinch -two (the Iowa bird)
Prairie Horned Lark	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Green Heron
Bob-white -two -five	Northern Shrike
Long-eared Owl	Chesnut-sided Warbler
Mallard	Bluebird
Coot or Mud Hen	Kentucky Warbler
Golden-eye Duck	Yellow Warbler
American Bittern	Wilson's Warbler
Pacific Loon - rare	Yellow-breasted Chat
Barred Owl	Black and White Warbler
Great Horned Owl	Cape May Warbler
Sora Rail	Bay-breasted Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	American Redstart
American Goshawk	Magnolia Warbler
Short-eared Owl	Blackpoll Warbler
Screech Owl	Northern Parula Warbler
Northern Flicker -two	Nashville Warbler
Tennessee Warbler	Mourning Warbler
Myrtle Warbler	Ovenbird
Blackburnian Warbler	Pine Warbler
Western Palm Warbler	Chesnut-sided Warbler
Grinnell's Water-Thrush	Blue-winged Warbler

To be entirely correct the names should be capitalized all the way through the list as I have them above.

Philip A. DuMont.