

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON

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Professor George O. Hendrickson
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My dear Professor Hendrickson:

I am very interested in your project of revising the "Check-List of Iowa Birds," as outlined in your letter of May 22. I have had the opportunity of helping with two such Check-Lists recently. One of these was for the naturalists of National Capital Parks who wanted a list arranged alphabetically and showing abundance throughout the year by a line of varying thickness. A copy of this and its predecessor are enclosed. I would not recommend them for Iowa.

The second was for the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, and I would like to recommend several features in connection with it. First of all is the size. The present Iowa card is too small and provides no space for recording figures--which is the primary purpose of the card. The Iowa card has 273 names; the D. C. 304, with one full page blank on which to record trip notes and data. We formerly had 5 columns for number, but reduced it to 3. This means one card can be used for 3 trips, or for recording counts for three different parts of a single day's trip. Many names can be abbreviated to save space. Notice particularly the use of the name "Warbler" once, indenting the next 26 names only 2 spaces, saving repeating that part of the name 26 times. The same is true of other large groups. It results in a clear list, with fewer of the names backward, such as "Sparrow, House," etc.

I think you should study over the front page of the Iowa list since it wastes space. By starting the list on page 1 you can have the back page for recording data on 3 trips.

The punch holes are used by only a few persons. The size of the card was made to fit inside the Peterson Field Guide.

I have numbered on the Iowa card 60 changes in names. These are set forth on the enclosed sheet. I asked Fred Lincoln to look over this list since he did the final work on the Fifth A.O.U. Check-List before it went to the Editor. He tells me the final decision on the

Towhee was to lump both the Eastern Towhee, P. erythrophthalmus and the Spotted Towhee, P. maculatus as one species to be called the Rufous-sided Towhee. Since there seems to be some disagreement on this point, I have listed it only as Towhee in our refuge bird lists. Incidentally, we have now issued 60 of these, all using species names. I am enclosing a copy of the one for the Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wild Life Refuge with a few corrections as to names. Also enclosed is one for the Mud Lake Refuge in Minnesota which follows a style we are now swinging to in stating seasonal abundance.

There are problems you will have to face in agreeing on the new list. Recently full species status was given to two dowitchers. In all probability they will be called "Long-billed" and "Short-billed" Dowitcher. If you think they can be identified in the field, you will want to include both. In the D. C. list we included "Northern" and "Prairie" Horned Larks because the two subspecies can be identified in the field. For the same reason we included two races of Palm Warbler and Grackle. Comparable problems in Iowa have to do with identifiable races of the Canada Goose and Red-tailed Hawk.

I would think you might consider adding the Snowy Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Turkey (since the State has introduced them in several parts), and the Harlan's Hawk, which is a full species.

Others to consider are White-faced Ibis, Old-squaw, Western Sandpiper, Sprague's Pipit, Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Oregon Junco. It will depend on the extent of recent records for these.

Why not drop the Rock Dove? It serves no useful purpose.

You may be interested in some cost figures. Varityping costs \$4 a page; with ruling, \$9 a page. Printing 2,000 costs \$32.50; 5,000 cost \$60, or a little over 1 cent each. Perforating costs \$5 for 2,000; \$10 for 5,000. We sell them at 2 cents each. We printed 10,000 copies of the D. C. Check-List.

I am sending copies of most of this material and of this letter to Emis and Grant. Please send along any questions I failed to cover.

Sincerely yours,

Philip A. Dufont
Biologist
Branch of Wildlife Refuges

Enclosures