

NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Lincoln, Nebraska,
January 16, 1935.

Mr. Philip A. DuMont,
306 Fifty-first Street,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Mr. DuMont:

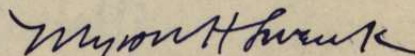
On November 30, I wrote you that I hoped soon to have the twenty-eight specimens of Horned Larks that you sent me on September 8 ready for return. I finished working them over during the Holidays, but I did not wish to ship them back at that time because of the congestion of the mails. By now, however, the mail service is normal, and I am today returning to you by insured parcel post the twenty-eight Horned Lark skins. The series of Chickadees, and the four Tree Sparrows and three Vesper Sparrows are not yet fully studied, so will be returned later.

As I stated in my letter of November 30, with a few exceptions I found myself in agreement with the identifications penciled upon the labels. These exceptions are five in number. Your Nos. 22, 24, 26 and 27, which were identified as hoyti, I have called praticola, while your No. 31 identified as praticola, I have thought probably had better be referred to hoyti. That makes your series run, according to my identifications, nineteen praticola and nine hoyti instead of sixteen praticola and twelve hoyti. Of course this is largely a matter of judgment, or even of opinion. Most of these birds apparently come from the area of intergradation between praticola and hoyti, and are more or less intermediate. All five of the specimens which I have identified differently from you have wings 107 or 108 mm. long, and are thus on the borderline of maximum praticola and slightly subaverage hoyti. Aside from these five specimens, I feel somewhat more certain about the correct placement of the others. I enclose a carbon copy of my memorandum on the identification of this series. It indicates that specimens referable to both forms occur pretty well mixed over Iowa during the winter, which is not exactly your conception of the status of these two forms in Iowa in winter as set forth in your recent list of the birds of Iowa.

Simultaneously with the study of your specimens I reviewed the Horned Lark series in my own collection, and may have something to say regarding the distribution of the Horned Larks in the Iowa-Nebraska region in an early number of the Nebraska Bird Review.

Thanking you sincerely for the privilege of examining these specimens, and with best wishes for 1935, I am

Yours very truly,



Secretary-Treasurer, N. O. U.

Otocoris alpestris praticola

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- 44✓ Ogden, Boone Co., Iowa, February 22, 1933 (Robert Walker) ♀ 97
45✓ Trumbull Lake, Clay Co., Iowa, December 15, 1933 (P. A. DuMont) ♀ 98
36✓ Two m. s.e. of Bancroft, Kossuth Co., Iowa, January 23, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 103
41✓ Dewey's Pasture, n. of Ruthven, Clay Co., Iowa, November 25, 1933 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 104
32✓ Four m. s.w. of Pauline, O'Brien Co., Iowa, February 10, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 104
(testes slightly enlarged).
34✓ Three m. e. of Durt, Kossuth Co., Iowa, January 24, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 104.5
33✓ Four m. s.w. of Ruthven, Clay Co., Iowa, January 5, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 105
35✓ Four m. s.w. of Ruthven, Clay Co., Iowa, January 5, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 106
37✓ One m. w. of Twelve Mile Lake, Emmet Co., Iowa, January 15, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 105.5
38✓ Four m. s.w. of Ruthven, Clay Co., Iowa, January 5, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 106
30✓ Six m. w. of Algona, Kossuth Co., Iowa, February 6, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 106
29✓ Six m. e. of Hawarden, Sioux Co., Iowa, February 11, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 106
(single bird, singing).
27✓ Four m. s.w. of Ruthven, Clay Co., Iowa, January 5, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 107
26✓ N. of Swan Lake, Emmet Co., Iowa, January 18, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 107
40✓ Four m. s.w. of Ruthven, Clay Co., Iowa, January 5, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 108
39✓ Near Lake Center School, Clay Co., Iowa, February 17, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 108
(testes enlarged).
42✓ Ogden, Boone Co., Iowa, February 16, 1933 (Robert Walker) ♂ 108
(testes enlarged) Det. J. Van Tyne.
24✓ Two m. s.e. of Bancroft, Kossuth Co., Iowa, January 23, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 108
32✓ Trumbull Lake, Clay Co., Iowa, December 15, 1933 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 108

Otocoris alpestris horti

- 31✓ One-half m. n. of Mud Lake, Clay Co., Iowa, February 2, 1934 (B. B. Spaw) ♂ 108
(testes slightly enlarged).
43✓ Ogden, Boone Co., Iowa, February 16, 1933 (Robert Walker) ♂ 108
(testes not enlarged) Det. horti by J. Van Tyne.
28✓ Three m. e. of Spender, Clay Co., Iowa, February 11, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 108.5
(testes slightly enlarged; one of 5 birds).
25✓ Four m. s.w. of Ruthven, Clay Co., Iowa, January 5, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 109
30✓ Two m. s.e. of Bancroft, Kossuth Co., Iowa, January 23, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 109
19✓ N. of Swan Lake, Emmet Co., Iowa, January 18, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 109.5
21✓ One m. w. of Twelve Mile Lake, Emmet Co., Iowa, January 15, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 110
18✓ Two m. s.e. of Bancroft, Kossuth Co., Iowa, January 23, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 111
23✓ Clear Lake, Pocahontas Co., Iowa, March 8, 1934 (P. A. DuMont) ♂ 111
(testes not enlarged; bird alone).