

Ruthven, Iowa.

April 5, 1934.

Dear Pierce:

I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Nauman which he asked me to mail to you. Will you kindly mail it back to me after you have read it? Send to the Des Moines address, I guess.

I really meant it when I urged Mr. Nauman to write up the owl record in greater detail for your paper. He sent me full details on the Great Gray Owl record and it was used as a sight record.

If you do not need the copy on the Starling paper until at least the end of the month or later, I believe that by then I will have some additional records to include in it. Probably I shall be driving in southern and southwestern Iowa and should see some more of them. In its present form there are records for twelve more counties.

Did I write you that Mr. Barnes sent me the proof on the paper "Breeding Birds of Iowa"? I urged him to use it in one of the early numbers so that it would be available for Iowa students to use this breeding season. He is going to use it in an entire issue. I think the proof-reading was highly worth-while.

In regard to the mimeographed letter and also some points in your letter, I don't believe there is so much that you could take from the letter for use in Iowa Bird Life. Only the nesting notes would normally interest any of the bird observers in the state and if the Oologist does come out it will be contained there in greater detail. However, if we have any assurance of when it is to be out it would pay to carry a note telling of it and where copies could be secured.

As for the examination of specimens or collecting that is a field that no one expects the bird observers to be interested in. It was not feasible to issue several different mimeographed sheets, one to the observers, one to the twelve people in the state who have collecting permits, and still another to the museums directing them to search for specimens. However, I expected each group to be able to select their own part of the program.

I have always felt a bit indignant because the "bird lovers" felt obliged to continually interfere in a field of study in which they profess such an utter disinterest. Namely the use of some system of identification for studying distribution, migration and interrelationship. If the meager handful of bird students that are interested in working out these problems are allowed to continue without further interference it is possible that future books treating of the birds of this part of the Middle West will give the correct distribution for Iowa birds.

You may be interested that there are now only 12 people in Iowa holding scientific collecting permits. All specimens must go to some institution eventually. As a result of the continual cry against the slaughter of birds by collectors Mike Allert has no per-

mit. Neither has anyone at the Museum at Iowa City. I expect less than five hundred birds were taken by all of the collectors in Iowa last year. Yet consider. Anyone in Iowa can by paying a dollar fee last year (two dollars state; plus one dollar 'Duck Stamp') this year) be entitiled to kill the following number of animals and birds and no questions will be asked:

	<u>Days</u>	<u>No. per day</u>	<u>Possible total</u>
Squirrel	62	10	620
Rabbit	365	15	5,475
Woodcock	31	4	124
Wilson's Snipe	61	15	915
Ducks	61	12	732
Geese	61	4	244
Rails	75	15	1,125
Coots	61	15	915
Gallinules	75	15	1,125
Pheasant	6	3	18
Fox	365	unlimited	unlimited

Total possible 11,293

Multiply this by 300,000, the estimated number of hunters in the state and you will be able to understand why there is a shortage of ducks. But does Doc. Roberts and the rest go out and try to stop this killing?

I collected perhaps thirty birds last year, mostly sparrows, shore-birds, and blackbirds. The latter are not protected in Iowa. And yet I am a slaughterer of birds even though I have never killed a duck in Iowa.

Why isn't it possible for the bird observers in the state to say to the few collectors "You are doing good work; go ahead".

I have agreed with Stephens continually on his contention that a species name (binomial) and a specific vernacular name was needed for use of all bird observers and to be used for recording field observations.

You didn't comment on the proposed plans for possible publication of the Iowa bibliograpy. Stephens was keenly interested. Are you?

Very truly yours,