

December 10th, 1934.

Mr. M. A. Stempel
Macedonia, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Stempel:

I was very pleased to have your letter of November 9th with the splendid lot of information relative to the collection of birds secured by your father.

I think it entirely possible that we can sometime complete the identification and perhaps prepare a directory to the collection. I would like very much to see this done as I feel it would add tremendously to the value of this collection.

You included information in your letter regarding several species of birds and suggested that you would be willing to try and find additional information if I was interested. Consequently I am now writing to ask if you can find in your father's notes any definite information as to dates and localities for several of these specimens.

You stated that the McCowan's Longspurs were taken during the early nineties and that you believed that they were taken during the middle of the winter. I believe that you will find if there is a written record on these specimens that they must have been taken in the spring rather late as the birds are in nearly full breeding plumage. These particular Longspurs do not remain in the winter and actually move northward in the early spring. They do not get their full plumage until rather late. I would appreciate any further information that you are able to find on these specimens. If you recall I am anxious to establish the fact that these are Iowa specimens as I know of none other in Iowa collections.

I would appreciate very much having any further information that you have on the Prairie Falcon, Montana Horned Owl and the Sennett's Nighthawk. Do you have the date when these specimens were taken and the locality?

You wrote that the specimen of the Ruffed Grouse was taken about

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1888 or before and that these birds were plentiful on or about 1885. This is a correct statement is it not for this bird?

You stated that the Whip-poor-will was rather plentiful along the Missouri River both north and south of Council Bluffs. Was this a former condition or are they still plentiful?

The record of a Woodcock is extremely interesting. I believe you told me that it was last seen in 1886 or 1887.

I am especially interested to know more about the specimen of Water Ouzel taken at Hastings, Iowa, fifteen miles south of Macedonia. Is there any question at all as to this bird having been taken in Iowa. I ask this because such an occurrence is several hundred miles out of its normal range and of course entirely out of its normal habitate. It would be extremely interesting if you had the date when this specimen was secured and the information as to who collected it, where and under what conditions.

Likewise the specimen of Cinnamon Teal of which you wrote may prove to be the only preserved Iowa specimen if it can be shown to actually have been taken in Iowa. I believe that you wrote that you collected it about 1930 during the latter part of April. I recall seeing such a specimen in a collection but as it was, I think, in the case of western birds I assumed it was from Nebraska or farther west.

Please do not feel that I am being unduly critical of your statements regarding these birds; it is only that I am anxious that if any of these are bona fide Iowa records that as complete a record of the details be provided for reference purposes.

I would appreciate very much any additional information that you can send me concerning these specimens.

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

PAD:LB

Philip A. DuMont, In Charge
Investigation, Wild Life Areas.