

Iowa Ornithologists' Union

ORGANIZED AT AMES, FEBRUARY 28, 1923

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ATLANTIC

Sioux City, Iowa,
October 16, 1923.

Officers of the I. O. U.

Dear Friends: I have been thinking somewhat about the future of our young organization, and am taking the liberty of addressing you briefly.

The big problem which comes to my mind is What can we do to attract members and hold the present membership? They cannot all attend the meetings to receive the benefits connected therewith. We do not contemplate publishing a periodical. People will not continue to pay dues for nothing. After further analysis, through all of which I do not need to go here, I conclude that the organization must do some worthwhile piece of work, in which those who are willing to work may engage, and which others are willing to support. Some achievement will give the society reason for existence. I will not undertake to suggest what general lines of activity we should engage in. That will be something for us all to think about.

We now have about 80 members; we want 100 by the next meeting time. I suggest that two mimeographed letters be sent to the membership between now and the annual meeting. The first letter should go out this fall, and should contain (a) a boost for more members, and (b) also make inquiries as to when and where the members wish to meet in 1924. The second letter should go out two or three weeks before the meeting, and should be a boost for attendance at such meeting. It should also contain a statement as to business to come before the Society at the meeting.

I think such a circular letter should be sent to the membership quarterly. It would cost about \$5.00 per issue to mimeograph and mail it. Forty members at 50¢ dues would take care of this.

I also think that the name Iowa Ornithological Society would be, and is, preferable to "Union". There were some reasons for using the name "Union" which do not now apply.

If it is decided to become affiliated with the Wilson Ornithological Club, then we should provide in our constitution for two classes of membership, viz., affiliate and local. Affiliate members to pay dues sufficient to cover dues in the W.O.C. in addition to our own (probably \$2.00). Local members to pay 50¢ but have all the rights of voting, holding office, etc. The only difference being that they are not also members of the Wilson Club and would not receive the magazine.

Will be glad to know how these suggestions seem to you.

Very sincerely yours,

T. C. Stephens

#4

Sioux City, Iowa,
October 16, 1923.

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Respectfully,
(Signed) T. C. Stephens

(This letter was counted as Number 4 of the I.O.U. letters, although it was sent only to officers, and should hardly have been entitled to recognition as a numbered letter)