

Ornithologist's Bulletin  
April 7, 1928.

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It is time again for you to be thinking of our annual meeting, which this year will be held in conjunction with the Iowa Conservation Association at Ames, Iowa, and the dates are set for May 11 and 12. The Iowa Conservation Association has been very generous in according to us the privilege of setting the date for the convention. Since the hike in connection with our annual meeting has become a big feature of the meeting, this was a great favor to us, and we want to show to the Iowa Conservation Association that we appreciate their favor, by a large representation at the Ames meeting. The dates are excellent for bird observation and we should have a wonderful hike, as well as a fine program for those dates. The hike will be at the Ledges State Park which is not so far from Ames. Be sure to plan your month of May by including your attendance at this annual meeting.....A.J. Palas, President.

Dr. W. T. Hornaday has requested that a list of those birds which have practically disappeared from Iowa be compiled and sent to him. He is so closely associated with Iowa and he has given his life to conservation, therefore, it is little enough to do this, just because he asks it, but we will also be leaving a valuable record of bird life to the bird lovers who come after us. Because of your interest in general and bird life in particular, you will appreciate the value of such a list, and we hope will be glad to help us. If so, will you, from your observations and records, make a list of birds, either migrants or residents, (a) extinct, (b) once plentiful, now rarely seen. Please send to address below:

Mrs. W. G. DuMont, 2700-49th St., Des Moines, Iowa.

Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, bird authority and treasurer of the Iowa Ornithologist union, has banded many birds and later heard of their being found in various states, but he has just received notice of one that has probably traveled farther than any other. Dr. Roberts banded and set free a bronzed grackle on June 8th, 1927, and received a card Monday, stating that the bird had been caught in a bird trap at Beaumont, Tex., on February 7, 1928, by E. E. Harder, also a bird authority. The work of banding birds is carried on under the direction of the United States Biological survey, and reports of banding and the numbers on the band are sent to Washington, D.C., by Dr. Roberts. He bands several hundred birds each year, catching them in a baited trap and then releases them after banding. Dr. Roberts believes that perhaps this particular bird has been as far as South America and at this time of the year was just returning north.

On Wednesday morning, March 16, Walter Bennett and I spent six hours in the field and observed over 7000 geese in migration. It was the most inspiring sight I ever saw in bird life. Blue, Canadian, Snow and Whitefronted in flocks of from 25 up to 800. They had no doubt followed the Missouri all the way up and were northward bound. It was more geese than I had seen in all my life together before.

On April 1st, a party of Des Moines Audubon Club members journeyed to "Long Pond", twelve miles south west of Perry, for a day of waterfowl observation. Conditions were excellent and the following were observed: Shoveller, Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Baldpate, Green-winged Teal, Pintail, Redhead, Canvas Back, Lesser Scaup Duck, Ring Necked Duck, Buffle Head, Old Squaw, Ruddy Duck, American Merganser, Blue Goose, White Fronted Goose, - Total 14 Ducks, 2 Geese.

Shovellers, Mallards, Baldpates, Teal and Scaups were among the most common for the day. Three flocks of Blue Geese of from 7 to 15 each, and two flocks of White fronts of about 25 each, visited the lake during the day and continued on to the north.

In addition to the above, the Coot, Lesser Yellow Legs, Great Blue Heron and Wilson Snipe were recorded from the lake.

Mr. Walter Rosen, Junior Rosen, Robert Walker and brother drove from Ogden to take part in the days trip with the Des Moines party. There have been many requests for the publication of dates and approximate numbers of waterfowl migrants this spring. This should be done. Will you send, immediately, your records to the Secretary so this material may be compiled and printed? Everyone must be concerned of course, to make the survey general over the State. Such cities as Spirit Lake, Dubuque, Burlington, Clinton, Sioux City, Ogden, Atlantic, Cresco and Des Moines along with others, should score heavily. Have your reports mailed not later than April 25, and include all water birds seen.

During a four weeks tour through the south-west to California with the Drake Quartette, Secretary Nelson added to his years Iowa list, 60 additional species. Of the seven states traversed New Mexico yielded the greatest number of species and individuals, 36 of the 60 total were found in the Cactus State. California stood second.

The Alkali lakes along the Rio Grande were covered with migrating Ducks; among them the following: Ruddy, Shoveller, Mallard, Lesser Scaup, Baldpate, Pintail, Canada Goose, and the Cinnamon Teal which rarely reaches Iowa.

Three different Juncos, the Pink sided, Oregon and Gray headed were common in addition to the Slate Colored of the east. The pink sides, or Montana Junco, is often found in company with large flocks of Slate Colored Juncos, in Iowa.

Records of the Common Magpie of the mountains, In Iowa, are very few. The division of the Ranges of Eastern and western Meadow Larks is of course through central Iowa, so that in the greater portion of the state we have, to a more or less degree, the common Meadow Lark of the west.

Records of birds from western ranges which have strayed into Iowa are of importance and should be mailed in for publication. Birds remain quite closely in their own respective ranges and paths of travel and when they are irregular in this respect there is usually a reason. The Magpi, Cinnamon Teal, Mockingbird, Western Juncos, etc., are examples of irregular ones in Iowa. There are many others. Please let us have such records as they encourage more extensive study on the part of everyone.

All members should make plans for the State Convention to be held at Ames, May 11 and 12. In addition to the splendid lectures to be given, these dates fall at time of migration climax for central Iowa. The filed trip is to be held in and about the beautiful Ledges State Park, where all birds are attracted by the variety of territory which it includes. Centrally located, Ames will not be over a half day's drive for the majority of our members. Everyone mark May 11 and 12 as "positively" reserved for the annual convention. Several have not submitted the 1928 dues to date, which are \$1.00 - surely this is but an oversight and should be checked up soon. Awaiting immediate reports from everyone concerning waterbirds and "Rare" Iowa visitors, we remain,

Most sincerely,  
Arthur J. Palas, President.  
Kenneth R. Nelson, Secretary.