

1927

The news of the death of Dr. LeRoy Titus Weeks, which occurred at Council Bluffs, on March 4th, came as a great shock to his host of friends over the State. An ardent nature lover, he loved all the great out-of-doors. It was indeed a privilege and inspiration to go out with him early in the morning, for he had the happy faculty of imparting to others the messages he heard in the songs of his little feathered friends. He was student, philosopher, theologian, poet and philanthropist, and as such, never missed an opportunity to speak a word of encouragement and good cheer to his neighbor.

The man is dead, yet his spirit lives on in the high ideals he implanted in the minds of the young men with whom he came in contact. His poems breathe the wholesomeness of the nature lover, and through them he shall still be with us. The I.O.U. has lost one of its oldest and most active members, and his friendly council will be missed at its gatherings.

We print, in part, his poem-

ALL 'AT'S OUT'S IN FREE
(Verses 1-6-7-11-12)

"Hide an' seek," 'r "I Spy!"
Good ol' game of long ago!
Keep your eye peeled like a cat!
Git caught, of you come pokin' slow.

Makes my ol' heart tickle yit
To think how me and John and Wall
Went into the stable once,
An' took a plank up in the stall,

An' crep in under in the dark
Whores nobody couldn't see,
An' laid there till Al had to yell,
"All 'at's out's in free!"

An', purty soon I'll slip away,
An' hide for good, where all is still,
Among them marble slabs 'at stand
Knee-deep in ferns on Folin's Hill.

An'- when the Judgment Day comes by,
An' last one they can't find is me,
I hope I'll hear great Gabrul shout-
"All 'at's out's in free!"

I.O.U. Bulletin: Hello, everybody! and hearken ye good bird-lovers all! May 13th and 14th, have been agreed upon as the dates for the big doin's in Des Moines, in celebration of the fifth birth-day of the I.O.U.

The members of the Des Moines Audubon Society - your hostess on this momentous occasion - are gloriously happy over the prospect of your visit. Various committees are busily planning for your entertainment. Of course, we'll greatly miss Dr. Weeks' genial presence, his humorous remarks and his fine leadership. But we who know his soul is there, above the awakening continents, where - from shore to shore, somewhere, the birds are singing evermore, would wish us to carry on, and his spirit will surely be with us still. The following lines tell us so - taken from his poem entitled "Ode To The Brown Thrasher" - - -

O Bird, when I lie in my tomb,
But come thou and lilt to me there,
And I will arise from its gloom,
To meet with thy song in the air;
Its rapture my life will relume,
And we will eternity share.

Some fine speakers have already been lined up and wires are still out in various directions, so we hope to have more good news for you soon. Our old friend, Walter Bennett, of Sioux City, expects to be here in person this year. Our young friend, Phil DuMont has promised us an interesting "compose" letter from "Little Old New Yoick". Dr. Roberts, of Spirit Lake, has consented to come. He will be new to most of us, but is said to be very fine, and I'm sure we'll like him.

On Friday evening, preceeding the BIG lecture, there'll be a delicious dinner, with music, flowers 'n everything; that ought to put us into the best of spirits for the fine things to come.

Interesting field trips in various directions are being planned for early Saturday morning, after which a breakfast will bring us all together for refreshments and to "swap" stories before we proceed to count our "boids" - - so let's hear from you all very soon, saying you'll try your best to come and to bring some new friends with you. If you have questions or suggestions, send them along. Now, all together - - - "On to Des-Moines!"

The "Quail Bill", a bill to prohibit the hunting of Bob White for an indefinite period is now a law. It passed the House by a vote of 81 to 5, and the Senate by a vote of 38 to 3 - The success of this bill is due to a combination of efforts. The work done ten and six years ago for temporary closed seasons paved the way for us; the writing of letters by our members from over the State to the legislators was a great help; the work of our President in getting in touch with the officers of the Isaac Walton League and persuading them to drop from their program of legislation an attempt to get an open season eliminated most of our opposition, and then, too - the members of the general assembly are awake to the value of our native birds. Our work with the legislators was a real pleasure. A similar bill for protection of Prairie Chickens is also a law.

Iowa, in general, is fortunate this season to have its swamps and ponds in condition for bird observation after the several years of dryness. Marsh records certainly will be an item of major importance on every field trip of spring - in fact, the game is in session now.

Saturday the 19th, Secretary Nelson and Mr. Dawson of Des Moines recorded the following species on a huge marsh at E 14th and Euclid: American Coot - 7 pairs; Lesser Scaup Duck, 5 pairs; Ring Necked Duck, 5 pairs; Killdeer, 4 pairs; and the Shoveller Duck, 1 male.

Water Birds are to be one of the features of the State meeting, May 13th and 14th. We have the marshes and the birds to go with them, so make your plans now, and early, for the greatest convention ever.

Sincerely-

W. M. Rosen, President.
Kenneth Nelson, Secretary.