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OGDEN, IOWA Feb 12 1929

Phil DuMont

Dunedin, Fla.

Dear Phil:-

Received your two postal cards and each one of them gave me the fever to be with you. You certainly are the most fortunate or the most lucky fellow ever and I would just like to know how you come to be down in Florida. What are you doing? Are you valet for John D. or are you selling real estate?

I have never been in Florida nor any of the southern states below Virginia and am sure it would be a treat to me.

We have been having the toughest winter here since 1886 according to the weather bureau.

The mean temperature for January was 11 degrees and it dropped as low in January as 23 below. It was also the heaviest snowfall since 1886 February so far has been just as bad. It was 25 below last Saturday morning and roads blocked with snow everywhere. Only the main highways open to traffic. Farmers coming to town in bob sleds or walking as it is impossible for most of them to get a car out of the garage.

Under these conditions one would think that all the Arctic birds would be here but it has been almost impossible to get out after them. Bob and I went out about two miles east Sunday afternoon along the Lincoln Highway and I carried my camera for some snow pictures. It was clear when we started but it clouded over and a blizzard came up and it got a lot colder and we had to catch a ride back to town with a farmer who came along. Simply froze out, that's all. This is exactly the other extreme from what you have.

Mr Sells of Paton sent me a fine specimen of Snowy Owl in January which had been shot near there. He sure has some good records. I am listing this bird on my list as coming from Greene Co. This is also my first record for the Snowy Owl making 212 for my life list here.

I have also listed the Short Eared Owl twice and the same number of times for the Rough Leg Hawk.

I hoped last Sunday to run across some Redpolls and some Snowflakes but got into a blizzard instead and waded snow waist deep in places.

Where is Kenneth? Is he dead or alive? I never hear from him.

It may be my turn to write him but I have no address. What is he doing? How are you boys coming with your Government jobs? I hope you get them. Your New York list as given in the last I.O.U. bulletin should get you most anything. I am glad that an Iowa boy came down to little ole "New Yawk" and showed them a thing or two. Stay with them Phil and although you did not grow as tall as our famous corn you can deliver the goods anyway.

Write me a letter when you have time or better still write a letter to Dr F.L.R. Roberts of Spirit Lake who is the editor of the I.O.U. Bulletin now and he will print it. The Bulletins are coming out in printed form now and are real classy. He wants material and I am sure you have it. Wishing you success and I assure you that I am always happy to hear from you.

Your chum,

Walter