

CITY STATE BANK

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$70,000.00

OGDEN, IOWA

Dec 8 1927

Phil DuMont
New York, N.Y.

Dear Phil:-

Your long letter just received and as usual read with a great amount of interest and after I finished I turned it around and read it all over the second time. I certainly envy you all the good times you have down there and only wish that I might share them with you but an old fellow like me that has "grown fast" just has to sit here, I guess, and like the hare and the tortoise I can watch you run.

I received a few lines from Walter Bennett and he sent me the program but said that he would tell me all about it when I came up there to give my lecture before their club in March. That is such a long time to wait I am glad that you gave me a taste of it now.

It must have been wonderful to meet all those "big boys" of the bird work and I hope some day to meet some of them. The only one of those eastern men that I have met is Herbert K. Job and William T. Hornaday.

There was one very sad paragraph in your letter, namely that Kenney is going east too. This will leave me an orphan for sure and I will hardly know what to do when I want to do some real bird work. It was a surprise as Kenney always has told me that he was going to study medicine. When did he change his mind on that? Is he going into the same work that you are in so that you will be together? He never writes to me so I was very much surprised. I know he is too busy to write so I forgive him on that account.

I am at the bank now and do not have my lists with me but think my 1927 list is now 167 for Boone Co. with six extra for Polk making a total of 173. I know my life list for Boone Co. is 201

A very fine specimen of Goshawk was shot near Ogden last week and I sent it to Prof. Homer R. Dill at Iowa City for their museum. This was my first record for Boone County for this bird.

I agree with you that Iowa should have a new and fresh book published on the birds within her borders as the old Birds of Iowa by R.M. Anderson was published in March 1907 and is nearly 21 years old. It was quite good but could be much better as it is really a compilation of records from various observers. I think a book of that kind should give unusual incidents and observations out of the ordinary for every bird. Of course it cannot be as complete as Forbush or anything of that sort but when it does not have illustrations it should contain an abundance of written material.

I would be glad to co-operate on a work of this kind as far as furnishing records from my note books but the great question would be how to finance it. I presume Dr Stephens who is one of our old timers would know whether this has been attempted and when I go up there in March I will have a talk with him about it. Harlan is a good friend of mine and I might ask him about it too when I see him.

Was glad to hear that you had seen my photo at Washington. Just as a matter of information I want to state that I am not getting any better looking in fact worse if anything so you did not see much.

I am always busy but I manage to find time to write you a few lines at least and I hope you will forgive me if I am more brief than you.

Write when you can as I always enjoy your long letters,

Your old buddy,

Walter