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OGDEN, IOWA

Sept 19 1929

Phil DuMont

New York, N.Y.

Dear Phil:-

Received your nice letter and mighty glad to hear from my old pal again. In the same mail I also received a letter from my other pal Bob Walker who with his brother is now out in Oregon.

Regarding proposed members for the A.O.U. can say that I hardly know who to recomend as I do not know who are already members. Mr E.D. Nauman of Sigourney is a good bird man also Fred Pierce of Winthrop.

I presume that Charley Spiker already belongs and I am quite sure that Walter Bennett belongs.

Mrs Mary L. Bailey of Sioux City should belong. Perhaps she does.

I read in the Des Moines Register a few days ago of the sudden death of Mr Whitney of Atlantic. He was in a hospital at Omaha for treatment and suffered a stroke while there.

I wrote her a special delivery letter at once expressing my sympathy but have not heard anything more.

Regarding an article on shore birds can say that I feel entirely too ignorant on that puzzling family of birds to write them up for the Auk.

The hardest family of birds to classify are the shore birds but I do not intend to give up because they are hard. That makes it all the more interesting.

You will probably remember the small pond on our farm about a mile south of Ogden where we found the nest of the Least Bittern. Well, this summer (late) the son of our tenant brought me a birds egg which he found when he was mowing the slough grass around that pond. He said it was just a short distance from the water and in the newly cut blough hay. I was puzzled over it and in order to get it definitely settled in my mind I brought it along on my trip to Chicago. I had a long visit with Hine and also with Mr Zimmer. Zimmer got out a part of their egg collection (30,000) and it proved to be exactly what I had classified it. The egg of the King Rail. That is my first nesting record of that bird in this County. In fact 1929 is the first year that I have even listed the bird in this County and that was at another pond.

I also had a nice visit with Mr Bailey at the Chicago Academy of Sciences. He being an Iowa man was of course a dandy fellow.

WHERE IS KENNETH AND WHAT IS HE DOING?

I never hear anything from him and have wondered if he is still alive or if he tried to swim the Atlantic and encountered a whale. Thyra is now finishing at Iowa City and Junior starts at Ames tomorrow. Dad's pocketbook will look as though a flock of elephants had tramped over it by next spring.

I'm mighty glad to hear from you and hope you will tell me all about the big convention. Your old pal, *W. M. Rosen*