

The Wilson Ornithological Club

FOUNDED, FALL RIVER, MASS., DECEMBER 3, 1898

The Wilson Bulletin

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Sioux City, Iowa,
October 16, 1931.

Mr. Philip A. DuMont,
Iowa City, Iowa,

Dear Mr. DuMont: I have before me your letter of the 10th, which I will answer. I think I have another letter of yours at my office which has not been answered, but I'll have to let that go for the present.

Your note on "Some Iowa birds in a Des Moines Collection" is in galley proof. I would send you the proof, but half of it is on a galley which I sent to Dr. Van Tyne, and which has not yet come back. However, I am making the following corrections for which you have asked:

- a) have eliminated entire note on the Common Loon.
- b) have added the lines to the Hutchin's Goose paragraph.
- c) made no change in notes on Double-crested Cormorant and Great Horned Owl.
- d) under Harlan's Hawk have stricken out the three lines concerning Story County.
- e) have changed the Arctic Horned Owl to Montana Horned Owl.

Perhaps I can send you a proof after these changes have been made in the type. The note is to appear in the December number. Will you want any reprints?

I had a visit from Errington Friday evening. We had the whole evening for shop talk. Very pleasant.

The specimen of Brunnich's (?) Murre is now being examined by the men at the Museum Comp. Zool., at Cambridge.

I can't give you any information about the Eskimo Curlew in the Sioux City Museum, except that it did not come from Dr. Rich's collection.

American Egret at Sioux City. / About the middle of August Mr. W. R. Felton called to say that a "white heron" had been reported at Brown's Lake by Game Warden F. T. Schöbe. On August 14 Mr. Felton and I went there and saw the bird at a considerable distance, and made a tentative identification. On August 19 I went again, this time with Wm. Youngworth. We went to the other end of the lake, and were able to get close enough to have a splendid view of the bird at rest and in flight. The yellow bill and black legs in clear light made certain the identification. From reports by people around the lake the bird appeared about the 1st of August and remained until at least the end of the month. Another Egret was seen near Sioux City in the summer of 1931 (July 25)

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but this one was over in Union County, South Dakota,
on Lake Goodenough, sometimes called Loblolly Lake ~~Lake~~

It must have been in your other letter that you mentioned the fact that you were being tempted to change your research to an experimental problem. I hardly doubt that the experimental field offers the best future at present. But you do not have to give up ornithology to get into experimental work. Notice especially the leading article which will appear in the December number of the Wilson Bulletin by Dr. Lillie.

You have such a splendid start in the field of ornithology that you can hardly afford to cast away entirely, and begin in a wholly different field.

And I hope very much that you will go ahead with the Iowa list and complete it, even though you may be persuaded to take up some phase of experimental work for the longer struggle. If you do decide to take up a physiological problem for your doctor's thesis (which would not be a bad plan), then I think you would be wise to head up your Iowa list for a master's degree at the end of the first year. It is a pretty safe idea to pick up the master's degree while you are going along. Something might happen or you might change schools, and it would be nice to have an M.A. from Iowa just to show that you could do it.

I am always glad to have a line from you.

Sincerely yours,

T. C. Stephens