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306 E. Jefferson,
Iowa City, Iowa.
April 22, 1933.

Mr. Wade Guenther, Editor,
The Sabula Gazette,
Sabula, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Guenther:

Your letter concerning the collection of birds in Mr. Giddings' home, was received by me this morning. I am glad to send you what facts I have of his collection, with some observations about a few of the specimens.

This collection is not the largest private collection in the state. There are several larger, but probably few that are as old. The greatest value in the collection is in the fact that practically all of the birds were taken around the Giddings home at Sabula. In the same way it definitely lacks any great amount of value because no data has been attached to the specimens. Fortunately Mr. Giddings can remember where most of them were taken and very close to the date. A complete record may be contained in his journal, and if so at a very early time a record should be made for each specimen, giving the place where taken, either Sabula, Iowa or just Jackson county, and the date with at least month and year. Even Mr. Giddings' name as collector should be added. The name of the bird can be supplied by any-one but only Mr. Giddings can tell where and when they were taken, and if this is not done while he is alive, the collection will be of little value except as some birds to look at. If you are interested enough to try and get this done you will be performing a real service to science. So much for that.

The birds are very well mounted, and give one a good idea of the birds about Sabula. The mounted collection of Warblers is especially fine, and contains twenty-two different kinds. Of these the Kentucky, Pine, and Cape May Warblers are somewhat rare in Iowa and a few specimens are preserved in the state. Mr. Giddings has a specimen of the Bendires Crossbill, a Rocky Mountain bird that wanders into Iowa very rarely. I know of only seven other records for the state, and this specimen is the farthest east it has been found in the U.S.

Another specimen which is of great importance as a record is a Pacific Loon, shot on the Mississippi River, in front of Sabula, by W. H. Aldrich, November 16, 1895. It is an immature male, and as far as I know it is the only preserved specimen of the bird that has been found in the Mississippi Valley region. It is found commonly on the Pacific coast, but is only known to have occurred once in Arizona, New Mexico, New Hampshire, New York, and this record from Iowa. All other records of it being west of the Rockies. The specimen has no great monetary value but it should very certainly be preserved, and finally deposited in a museum where it would be preserved indefinitely.

Perhaps you will be interested in my study of the collection. There are perhaps a few over 106 birds that were taken in Jackson county. One or two others were taken elsewhere. If you should care to publish the entire list of specimens it would serve as a directory for those interested in viewing the collection. I am enclosing such a list.

Very truly yours,

List of 106 Birds in the H.J. Giddings

Collection, taken in Jackson County, Iowa.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird -two | Robin -two |
| Song Sparrow | Blue Jay -two |
| Spotted Sandpiper | Bob-white -two |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | Red-bellied Woodpecker |
| Whip-poor-will | Yellow Warbler |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | Cedar Waxwing |
| Pine Siskin - two | Indigo Bunting |
| Wilson's Snipe | Red-winged Blackbird -two |
| Gray-checked Thrush | Yellow-throated Vireo |
| Rusty Blackbird | Downy Woodpecker |
| Black Tern | Lapland Longspur |
| Ruffed Grouse | Black-billed Cuckoo |
| Killdeer | Tree Sparrow |
| Bendire's Crossbill - rare | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| Fox Sparrow | Prairie Horned Lark |
| Common Redpoll -two | Purple Finch |
| Wood Duck | Scarlet Tanager |
| Wood Thrush | Eastern Meadow-lark |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | Baltimore Oriole |
| Bobolink | Northern Yellow-throat |
| Bronzed Grackle | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Blue-headed Vireo | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker |
| Red-eyed Towhee | Belted Kingfisher |
| Cardinal | American Goldfinch -two (the Iowa bird) |
| Prairie Horned Lark | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Green Heron |
| Bob-white -two -five | Northern Shrike |
| Long-eared Owl | Chesnut-sided Warbler |
| Mallard | Bluebird |
| Coot or Mud Hen | Kentucky Warbler |
| Golden-eye Duck | Yellow Warbler |
| American Bittern | Wilson's Warbler |
| Pacific Loon - rare | Yellow-breasted Chat |
| Barred Owl | Black and White Warbler |
| Great Horned Owl | Cape May Warbler |
| Sora Rail | Bay-breasted Warbler |
| Pied-billed Grebe | American Redstart |
| American Goshawk | Magnolia Warbler |
| Short-eared Owl | Blackpoll Warbler |
| Screech Owl | Northern Parula Warbler |
| Northern Flicker -two | Nashville Warbler |
| Tennessee Warbler | Mourning Warbler |
| Myrtle Warbler | Ovenbird |
| Blackburnian Warbler | Pine Warbler |
| Western Palm Warbler | Chesnut-sided Warbler |
| Grinnell's Water-Thrush | Blue-winged Warbler |

To be entirely correct the names should be capitalized all the way through the list as I have them above.

Philip A. DuMont.