

A Dipper Specimen at Macedonia, Iowa.

At the town hall, Macedonia, in southeastern Pottawattomie County, is a display of about 500 mounted birds containing a Dipper without data. Most of the birds were taken in Iowa, and mounted by Dr. Guido Louis Stempel, a practicing physician and naturalist of the town, between about 1884 and 1904. The senior writer saw the Dipper at his first visit in 1943 under guidance of Max O. Stempel, proprietor of Bird Harbor Nursery, Macedonia, and a son of the Doctor. At that time Mr. Stempel said the bird was shot in the spring of 1895 or 1896, following three days of strong winds, probably at Waubonsie Lake, which was in sections 15, 21, and 22, T70N and R43W, northwestern Fremont County, Iowa and about 30 miles southwest of Macedonia. The west part of the lake, long a well-known waterfowl hunting site, is now Forney Lake, State-owned and managed by the Iowa State Conservation Commission as a refuge and a public shooting ground. According to Mr. Stempel, Laut Mason of Hastings, Iowa, about midway between Macedonia and the lake, collected the Dipper.

Because the junior writer, after seeing the exhibit for the first time in 1934, had published on a Cinnamon Teal in the collection (Additional Specimens of Birds Substantiated by Specimens, Wilson Bulletin 47:205-208. 1935) the senior writer thought to correspond with him. In reply came a letter to the junior writer handwritten by M. A. Stempel under date of January 13, 1935. From the letter is this quotation. "There is no question about the water ouzel. Mr. Laut Mason of Hastings killed the bird and sent it to father. The bird was taken in spring after or during 3 or 4 days of strong n.w. birds. If I remember rightly sometime in April."

On the basis of the oral and written statements of M. A. Stempel, and viewing of the specimen by both writers, it is proposed that the Dipper be added to the list of Iowa birds, and as of accidental occurrence.

George O. Hendrickson, Dept. of Zoology
& Entomology, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa

and

Philip A. DuMont, Fish and Wildlife Service,
U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C.