

306 E. Jefferson,  
Iowa City, Iowa.  
April 28, 1933.

Mr. James L. Peters,  
Museum of Comparative Zoology,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Peters:

I was very pleased to have your recent letter containing information relative to the paroquets.

During the past year I have been engaged in reclassifying the entire collection of birds in the University museum and working on a revised list of the birds of Iowa as well. I think my summary of the bird collections may be accepted as very accurate as most of the material was counted specimen by specimen.

The Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa, (Prof. Homer R. Dill, Director) contains collections of birds totalling approximately 1500 mounted birds and not over 8,500 skins. Besides numerous Iowa specimens secured from various individuals from time to time, the principal collections comprising the material are as follows: The "Horr" collection of 160 mounted birds are without data; The W. C. C. Nutting collection consists of 93 skins from Costa Rica in 1882, 180 skins from Nicaragua in 1883, 120 skins from Illinois and including a number purchased in England, 200 skins from Carl-inville in 1883, 70 skins from Pilot Town, Florida in 1884, and 50 skins from the Bahamas in 1888; The Frank Bond collection consists of 80 mounted birds from Cheyenne, Wyoming, no date, and 120 mounted from southeastern Iowa; The H. E. Wickham collection of 70 skins from Wrangel Island, Alaska about 1891, and 20 skins from Reno, Nevada and Provo, Utah in 1891; In 1891 C. C. Nutting, Frank Russell, and A. G. Smith were in Manitoba, on Lake Winnepeg and secured 486 skins. From 1892 to '94 Frank Russell spent at Lake Winnepeg, up in Alberta, to Lake Athabaska, Fort Rae on Great Slave Lake, and down the Mackenzie to Herschel Island. He secured about 680 skins; The Paul Bartsch collection of 678 skins are deposited in the Museum. They are from eastern Iowa, Washington, D. C., 100 from Sweden, and others from scattered points; In 1902 C. C. Nutting secured 70 skins from Laysan Island and in 1911 H. R. Dill and others secured about 400 skins from the same locality; The R. M. Anderson collection of 240 skins are from northern and southeastern Iowa; 54 skins were purchased from Ceylan; H. R. Dill secured 42 skins at LaPush, Washington in 1919; A. H. Bailey and R. W. Hendee secured 40 birds on Diomed Island, Bering Sea in 1921-'22; A. H. Bailey and H. R. Dill collected 80 skins at Avery Island, La. in 1918; A. H. Bailey collected 30 birds at Juneau, Alaska in 1920; The Ira N. Gabrielson of about 300 skins from Marshall County, Iowa taken in 1913-'14, was recently received by the Museum; The C. H. Jones collection of about 450 mounted birds were secured in Connecticut from 1876 to 1910; and the bulk of the study skins were secured by D. H. Talbot and his collectors in north-western, Iowa, Nebraska, Indian Territory, Corpus Christi region in Texas and a few from Labrador. About 80 are from Australia. The bulk of the collection of approximately 7,200 skins was secured between 1882 and '87, but mostly from '84 to '86. Many of these skins were in to poor a condition to be saved. This material was never crit-



ically studied and I have attempted to go over it rather well for that reason. I plan to publish an itinerary of Talbot's collecting localities and some of the more important things that he secured.

I know that this summary needs to be considerable reduced in space, but I felt that it might be best to send the entire sketch and let you pick from it the high spots

The one outstanding habitat group in the Museum is the cyclorama of Laysan Island. Other groups include one from Louisiana and one of Bering Sea. The systematic arrangement of the Water-birds has a habitat background.

Other collections in Iowa are as follows: Bert Heald Bailey Memorial Museum, Coe College, Cedar Rapids. Not over 500 mounted birds and a like number of skins, mostly from Iowa and eastern South Dakota; Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa has a small messy museum, the birds without data, study collection of 200 Polk County, Iowa birds secured in 1886. These are summarized in my Polk County paper; Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, about 300 mounted birds a part having data. There is no study series; Iowa Wesleyan University, Mt. Pleasant, have about 500 junky birds from all parts of the world, nearly all lacking data; The collections in the Davenport Public Museum, Sioux City Academy of Science, Grinnell College, Jefferson County Public Library, Odebolt High School, all have a few birds in them of interest but these will be listed in my revised list. Rather promising private collections are: Oscar P. Allert, McGregor; D.J. Bullock, Des Moines; and Harry Tennant, Arnolds Park. None of the three would have 500 birds.

Oberholser recently made a copy of all of the Texas material secured by Talbot. An account by Russell of his trip in the north was published entitled Explorations in the Far North. I think this is quoted widely in the North American Fauna number treating of the Mackenzie region-don't have the reference here at the moment. The specimens secured by Anderson were listed in his Birds of Iowa (1907).

No one has touched the skin series, for study, since Anderson worked over the Iowa birds in 1907. I have set up a card index, rearranged in the new A.O.U. order, added new tags, with latest nomenclature. It looks now as though my work will be concluded at the end of the school year. Still plenty of work to but the farmers in the legislature can't see money going for this sort of thing.

Let me know if I may be of further help to you.

Very truly yours,

Philip A. DuMont.