

Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 11, 1923.

Dear Fellow Member:

Knowing the impossibility of bringing all our members together at this time, it has seemed best to try to solve some important problems by means of a letter.

Since our organization in February, 1923, we have been steadily gaining in membership and now have 92 members. We feel that we have reached only a small number of the Iowans interested in birds and that the membership should include many more. Can you not help us make it 100?

Besides the meeting of Officers held here in May, we have had two meetings for members during the year, both held at the same time in different parts of the state.

The two days meeting at the Ledges State Park, August 11-13 was interfered with by the heavy rain which made the roads almost impassible, but those who attended were enthusiasts and the meeting was well worth while. The meeting at McGregor was in conjunction with the Wild Life Conference, and was well attended. Three sessions on August 11 were devoted to bird topics and the wish was expressed that this day might be a regular feature in the program of the Conference. These meetings helped to draw the members together and put the Union on a firmer basis.

Now, there are several questions which should be brought up before the membership and should be given personal consideration as soon as possible.

The first matter to be considered is the time and place of our Annual Meeting. Shall this be held, as last year, in conjunction with the Iowa Conservation Association, since our Union may not be firmly enough established to hold a separate meeting? This is usually held in the winter months in Ames, which is a central location. Or, would it be more advisable to have a two days meeting in May and include a field trip? If the latter, what should be the policy of the selection of the place? Should the largest group of members in one town decide the place, a plan which might help to boost the membership, or should it be decided by an invitation from the members of a town desiring to have the meeting?

The second matter to be considered is the preparation of a program for the meeting. What special topics should be considered that would interest the largest number? Do you know of any one who could give an interesting talk on some line of work taken up recently? Perhaps you, yourself have something to present?

The next matter is in regard to a publication by which we might come in touch with each other oftener. If it does not seem wise to have one of our own, on account of the expense involved, how about the Wilson Bulletin, which might give space to our news notes and perhaps other articles. This should be discussed at the Annual Meeting but should be the expression of all the members.

Another matter that will come up at the Meeting will be the election of officers. This question should be given careful consideration in order that the officers chosen may be those who will best advance the interests of the Union.

These are questions which should interest every member, for an Association is what the members make it, and only by the interest and enthusiasm of every one can it be made what we all wish it to become, an Iowa organization worthy of the name.

Yours very truly,

Mrs H. M. Bailey, Secretary,
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Sioux City, Iowa.