

"State Bird"

The mention of a State Bird in our last letter brought a few suggestions but not as many as we should have, and not enough to get a general idea as to the opinion of the majority of our members.

Mrs. Frankel of Des Moines writes "Please choose an all year round bird for Iowa - Downy Woodpecker or Chickadee"

Mrs. E. R. King of Sioux City says "I think the Chickadee very good for a state bird for it is here all the year".

From Miss Althea R. Sherman of National came the following "For Iowa's "State Bird" the Goldfinch is suggested. A beautiful bird, easily recognized by every one, it is of common occurrence in most parts of our State throughout the entire year"

These nominations are very good but we should hear from at least fifty more members. Let's have your nomination promptly and perhaps this might be brought up at our meeting at Atlantic.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The dates for the annual meeting have finally been decided for May 14-May 15th, these dates being on Friday and Saturday.

Friday forenoon will be occupied mainly for registration and getting acquainted and the regular program will start immediately after noon.

A number of good papers have already been promised by members from over the State and these together with the election of officers will occupy the entire afternoon. This will be followed by a banquet in the evening and later an evening program when we are hoping to have an illustrated lecture - all of course on birds.

Saturday morning will find us all up with the sun and out for an early morning field trip, and this should be a great event as it will be the first field trip ever held at an annual meeting. The committee on "flap jacks" has not been appointed but we presume that our Atlantic members will arrange that part of the program. The remainder of Saturday will be occupied with other field trips around Atlantic and during the day the various parties will depart for the different parts of the State. We suggest that you plan now to go to Atlantic and help make this a successful meeting, as the Bird Club there are working very hard and planning a fine entertainment. Plan for auto parties, as rail connections sometimes are not to our liking, but you can always arrange for auto trips and make your own schedules. Make these plans now and load up the "flivver" to its capacity with bird lovers of your town whether they be members or not. Perhaps they will be when they return.

"BIRD NOTES"

Our first request for bird notes brought a number of interesting items as follows:

Mr. T. H. Whitney of Atlantic reports the Northern Shrike there this winter.

Miss Kathleen Hempel of Elkader one of our enthusiastic bird banders had the unusual experience of banding a White Breasted Nuthatch which had three legs. This was both interesting and unusual and we appreciate items of this kind as many of our members keep these letters, and these records through a number of years will contain considerable valuable information.

Mrs. F. May Tuttle of Osage, reports observing a flock of thirty or forty Cedar Waxwings feeding on frozen apples, a favorite winter feed.

C. J. Spiker of Morningside College in a walk of 55 miles on Feb. 12-13-14 observed a Kingfisher, Harlan Hawk and Bohemian Waxwing. We are very anxious to learn of other observations of the Bohemian Waxwings in Iowa.

E. D. Nauman of Sigourney reported a male Towhee on Jan. 31st and an Evening Grosbeak on Jan. 1st and it remained for several days. Another extremely interesting Iowa record. If you have listed an Evening Grosbeak this winter please report it as this is a rare and unusual occurrence.

Dr. Weeks of Tabor reports that "while out east along the Nishnabotna River I heard a gang of crows swearing about something and thought I would sneak around as close as I could, and see. When I was within about seventy five yards of them, a great horned owl flew laboriously away and I thought my game was up, but not so. I noticed that most of the crows still remained, still keeping up their profanity so I pussy-footed along until within about fifty yards when I could make out an unusually large goshawk. When it flew I still thought it a goshawk; but it happened to fly across a patch of sky that was free from intervening limbs and I saw that it was a bald eagle."

Two bald eagles have been shot near Ogden this winter. Be sure to report all your good observations and do not fail to meet us all in Atlantic.

Yours very truly,

W. M. ROSEN, President.