

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

June 15, 1926 -

Officers:

Mr. W. M. Rosen, Pres.
Dr. T. C. Stevens, V.P.
Sioux City.
Kenneth R. Nelson, Sec.
Des Moines, Iowa.
Mr. A. J. Palas, Treas.
Des Moines, Iowa.

Executive Council:

Dr. L. T. Weeks,
Tabor, Iowa.
Dr. F. J. Becker,
Atlantic, Iowa.
Weir R. Mills,
Pierson, Iowa.

The fourth annual meeting of the Iowa Ornithological Union was held in Atlantic, May 14th and 15th. Members present, including those resident in Atlantic, totaled about forty, and many non-members attended all the public meetings. A fine program was given, ending in the evening of May 14th with an illustrated lecture by Dr. Stephens of Morningside College, on Antarctic Penguins. This lecture, in the exact and scholarly style, which characterizes all of Dr. Stephens' work, was greatly enjoyed by the large audience which had assembled in the church, by invitation to the general public. Previous to his lecture, a banquet was served to all members of the I.O.U. and Atlantic Bird Club, at which about 75 were present. Following the banquet, while still seated at the tables, an impromptu program of short talks was given by President Rosen, Dr. Weeks, and others. The inimitable Dr. Weeks charmed everyone, as usual, by reciting several of his poems.

The following morning, about forty gathered at Sunnyside Park, at 5 a.m., for the field trip; small parties were made up under the leadership of Dr. Stephens, Dr. Weeks, Chas. Spiker, DuMont and Nelson, and these parties scattered over the country in different directions. The morning was perfect as to weather, and - In Iowa - May is the most beautiful month of the year - Iowa, at that time, is the most beautiful land in the world, as we all know. The pink flush of wild crab; greenish white of haw-trees; sweet scents of plum and wild cherry, mingled with the chorus of birds, and all the varying fresh greens of new leaves, made an enchanting landscape from which it was hard to turn to serious work of bird study. Eighty-eight species were noted which was considered a satisfactory number, especially as few water birds were found. At 7:30 a.m., all the parties returned to the pavilion in Sunnyside Park, where a beautiful picnic breakfast was ready. At the tables, and afterward, observations were compared and experiences exchanged; a group picture taken, and then the happy company dispersed. Some of the out-of-town visitors were taken for a ride around the city, visiting some of the homes of local bird lovers, while Messrs. Nelson, Spiker and Mills enjoyed a season of music on the Congregational pipe organ.

The Atlantic Bird Club, under whose auspices the meeting was held, felt highly honored by the attendance and apparent good will of their visitors and the opinion appears unanimous that it is to the advantage of the Union to hold its meetings in May, when the birds are at their height in number and variety,

in various parts of the state, thereby giving those who regularly attend, an opportunity of studying the birds of other places besides their own home locality.

Bird Notes - -

1. Mrs. Lee, of Atlantic, contributes the following: Chickadee, W.B. Nuthatch, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Flicker, Cardinal, Junco, Brown Creeper, Blue Jay, Goldfinch, and Tree Sparrow - at her winter feeding tables. Early this spring Mrs. Lee planted two Russian Olive Trees to attract the Wax Wings, as per suggestion of Chas. Spiker, and the next day after the trees were planted, notwithstanding their dormancy, two WaxWings appeared, and later nine more. Mrs. Lee has one feeding shelf close by the kitchen window, and finds she can discourage the Sparrows by tapping on the glass, which does not, however, drive away the native winter birds.
2. On the field trip of the I.O.U., an enthusiastic bird student saw moving against the background of a wild crab - in full bloom - a glowing coal of bright red fire; a moment more, and this moving glow proved to be the breast of a ruby throated humming bird. The green plumage of the bird and the rapid motion of its wings, made it blend with the tree so as to be invisible, except the red spot and the marvelous color of the throat was apparently suspended in the air. The wonderful sex appeal of the Ruby throat's coloring was forcibly demonstrated.
3. Sunday, May 16th, twenty members of the Atlantic Bird Club again arose with the sun, and started from Atlantic at 5:30 a.m., for the Pontanelle Forest Reserve, south of Omaha, on another Bird Hike. The morning hours were spent in this wonderful forest, consisting of about 2000 acres along the bluffs on the west side of the Missouri. The woods were full of Red Starts and other warblers, and in the ravines, Cardinals, Ovenbirds, Wood Thrushes and Vireos filled the air with song. The Arkansas King Bird was noted, and several other species not found before. About 3 p.m., all adjourned to Elmwood Park, in the western part of Omaha, where a bountiful picnic dinner was prepared by the ladies, and full justice done to it by everyone. Starting home about 5 p.m., a storm dispersed the cars - two returning to Council Bluffs, one remaining in Carson, and two by another route.

We are indebted to Mr. T. H. Whitney and his Atlantic Iowa Bird Club, for the interesting material in this June Bulletin.

Mr. W. M. Rosen - President

Kenneth R. Nelson - Secretary.