

Iowa Ornithologists Union Organized 1923.

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Des Moines, Iowa, September 19, 1928.

By this time we have had our vacations and are at our more or less regular work. In the work for the coming year, have we planned enough time for systematic bird study?

Miss Althea Sherman in her excellent letter of greeting to the members of the I. O. U. read at our Ledges Park meeting last May urged all to keep systematic records of bird observations. Records made at time of observation become valuable in the future.

Mr. Kenneth Nelson, whose bulletins we have all enjoyed during the last two years has gone to New York City for study. We shall miss the "pep" of our former Secretary. We know that in the future we shall hear of him in some line of ornithology.

It was my good fortune to enjoy the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Pierce of Winthrop last spring. I hope that in the future we may be able to plan enough fall or winter meetings of our Union so that our members from the farms may be afforded the chance to meet with us. Most of you will recall with what regularity Mr. Pierce reports the Great Horned Owl in the Bird Lore Christmas Bird Census. On May 17th a pair of these owls were in the exact clump of trees where Fred thought they might be found, so when he reports the Great Horned Owl we may rest assured it is no accident. Fred knows his birds.

Speaking of fall or winter meetings of the I. O. U., it is also quite certain that our club will want to maintain the annual May meeting, on account of the spring migration interest. Our Bird Hike at the Ledges State Park under the leadership of that Veteran of Iowa Bird Lovers, Carl Fritz Henning, was a grand success. One winter meeting for all Iowa Bird people to have in mind even at this early date is the meeting of the American Association for Advancement of Science together with the Wilson Ornithologists Club in December 1929, at Des Moines, Ia.

On May 15th last I had the pleasure to see the American Golden Plover in large numbers in Fayette County. I had not seen these birds in migration since I was a youth on the farm in Clayton County. I also enjoyed hearing and seeing Prairie Chickens on this trip. It is to be hoped that a few of these birds may be retained within this State, but it will be upon us to keep the present permanent closed season, for with an open season on these birds the last remnant would disappear from our State.

Reverend George Bennett of Iowa City died at McGregor, Iowa, August 16, 1928, at the age of 75 years. His work was ended amid the scenes of his labors during the 10 annual session of the American School of Wild Life Protection. It was mostly through his efforts that the Wild Life School was founded, and by him together with the fine cooperation of the citizens of McGregor and the instructors and lecturers the school has been made a great success. Reverend Bennett has long been active in the work of conservation in this State and he will be missed by all of our organizations for Wild Life Protection. He was an active member of the I. O. U. since its organization.

The 1928 annual meeting of our Union was held at Ames and Ledges Park, May 11th and 12th. We are under obligation to Professor MacDonald and the other officers of the Iowa Conservation Association for the fine cooperation they gave us in making this meeting a success. The program at Ames and the one at Ledges Park had many fine papers on conservation. I do not have room here to make a detailed report on these papers. However, in addition to the reference heretofore made to the Letter of Greeting from Miss Sherman, I want to call attention to three papers.

Professor W. F. Kubichek of Coe College had for his subject: "Our Vanishing Game Birds." He called attention to the many hazards encountered by our game birds through the removal of their breeding places and many other conditions created by our civilization. The paper was both interesting and instructive.

Miss Lillian Hethershaw of Drake University presented the problem of teaching Nature Study in our Schools. Her fine paper was followed by an interesting discussion.

I think all of you know that you should not have missed the illustrated lecture by Walter M. Rosen. To those of our members who have never heard our former President in one of his talks, I want to say, do not pass an opportunity to hear him. He is a fine bird photographer, a pleasing speaker and "chuck" full of his subject. He has made a study of a Barred Owl nest and young that is a worth-while addition to the study of owls. I hope his report may be published in the Wilson Bulletin at an early date, so more of our members may be afforded an opportunity to read about his observations.

At this time I want to introduce to you Professor W. F. Kubichek our new Secretary. He is Curator of the Bert Heald Baily Museum and Instructor in Zoology, in Coe College. He was born in Iowa, for three years was engaged in research and field work of the U. S. Biological Survey and for the last five years has been in his present position. The Bailey Museum is an institution of which Coe College, Cedar Rapids and Iowa may well be proud of. We should all make it a point to visit the Museum if we happen to be in Cedar Rapids. Those who have not seen the Museum for the last five years should do so again so they may know what fine work Mr. Kubichek has been doing. I hope you may all learn to know him personally.

The I. O. U. has received and accepted an invitation to hold the 1929 May meeting at Sioux City. The Sioux City Bird Club is one of the best local clubs in the State and when they undertake a thing they do it well. They are making extensive plans for a real gathering of bird people. We hope that a large number from over the State will find it possible to attend. Sioux City has always had a good representation at our gatherings. Let us show our appreciation.

A. J. Palas, President.