

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

January 1, 1928

Arthur J. Palas, President

Des Moines

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With best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Christmas census is completed by Des Moines Audubon Society. 31 species of birds were discovered within an eight mile radius of the city, by the Audubon Society, in its 27th Annual Bird Census. Species listed - Mallard Duck, 2; Quail, 68; Broad-winged Hawk, 2; Red Shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 3; Screech Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 2; Great Horned Owl, 2; King Fisher, 1; Hairy Wood-pecker, 37; Downy Woodpecker, 77; Red-headed Woodpecker, 50; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 17; Flicker, 16; Prairie Horned Lark, 14; Blue-Jay, 105; Crow, 78; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Purple Finch, 16; Red Poll, 6; Gold Finch, 102; Tree Sparrow, 198; Slate Colored Junco, 317; Song Sparrow, 15; Cardinal, 113; Carolina Wren, 3; Brown Creeper, 11; White-breasted Nut-Hatch, 135; Tufted Titmouse, 128; Chickadee, 462;

Mr. Walter Rosen and Robert Walker report the following records for the Christmas Census at Ogden; Quail, 12; Prairie Chicken, 20; Red Tailed Hawk, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Down, 5; Red-bellied, 2; Flicker, 1; Prairie Horned Lark, 5; Blue Jay, 7; Crow, 5; Goldfinch 2; Lapland Longspur, 100; Tree Sparrow, 64; Cardinal, 2; Crow, 16; Whitebreasted Nuthatch, 5; Titmouse, 3; Chickadee, 15;

Two programs for 1928 - that of the Sioux City Bird Club and the Des Moines Audubon Society, were available at the time of printing this bulletin, and are included:

1928 Program of The Des Moines Audubon Society-

1. Jan 2 - Holiday Party. Reports on the Des Moines Christmas Census Party, to be held at the home of Mrs. Wendelburg.
2. Jan 25- Lecture by Prof. Homer Dill, of the University of Iowa. Subject - "Birds of The Laysan Islands".
3. Feb. 27- Bird Legislation in The United States - Mr. Howard Bump. Questions on Conservation, by Mrs. Henry Frankel. Mrs. J.E. Stewart, Hostess.
4. Mar 26- Historical Sketch of Audubon, and The Extinct Birds of Iowa, by State Curator Harlan. Session held at State Historical Bldg.
5. Apr 23- Bird Study in Des Moines Schools - by Junior Audubon Members, directed by Miss Minnie Youngerman; to be held at Public Library.
6. May 28- Spring Picnic. Annual Election and sketch of Spring Field Trips, by Mrs. A.J. Palas.

Field Trips planned by Des Moines: March 4th, Bouc Bird Trip.
April 15th, Drive to Long Pond, located Southwest of Perry.
May 13th, Morning Breakfast and Warbler Trip.

A feature of the year is to be the lecture on Jan. 21st, by William Finley, from the Pacific Coast. Mr. Finley is a professional lecturer, writer for Nature Magazine, and Director of Wild Life Conservation in Oregon. His topic for the evening will be upon the Finley Church Expedition to the Bering Sea, including five reels of movies. The lecture will be held in the Drake University Auditorium - admission 50 cents - children 25 cents; everyone welcome.

The 1928 Program of the Sioux City Bird Club is as follows:

1. Jan 10 - Public Essay Contest; Subject: "Why Birds Should be Protected". Awarding of prizes, reading of essays.
2. Feb 14- Economic Value of Birds - Hawks and Owls.....
By Mrs. E. A. Fields
Black Birds.....
By Prof. S.C. Steinbrenner
The English Sparrow.....
By Bess McCauley
3. Mar 13- "Birds Afield", an illustrated lecture by W.M. Rosen, of Ogden, for three years president of the Iowa Ornithologists Union.
4. Apr 10- How to Attract Birds-
Types of Bird Homes.....
By Mrs. E. R. King
Shrubbery That Attracts.....
By Weir Mills, of Pierson, Iowa.
Traps for Banding.....
By Mrs. J. A. Dales
5. May 8 - Special Reports of Field Trips and election of officers.
6. May 30- Decoration Day Field Trip.

The Fall Warbler Records, submitted by F. May Tuttle, of Osage Iowa, seen in her own yard: (Aug. 28 to Oct. 9)
Yellow Warbler; Redstart; Wilsons; Maryland Yellowthroat; Black and White; Tennessee; Nashville; Mourning; Black Throated Green; Oven Bird;

The following Warbler Records from George E. Bentley, of Boone, Iowa: (Oct. 1, to Oct. 16).
Black and White; Prothonotary; Worm-eating; Bay-breasted; Tennessee; Nashville; Myrtle; Black Burnian; Connecticut; Redstart; Oven Bird.

Walter Rosen, of Ogden, reported the Blackpole, Myrtle and Tennessee Warblers, from Oct. 11 to 18th.

Mr. A. T. Watson and Kenneth Nelson, of Des Moines, recorded the Black and White; Nashville; Black Throated Green; Oven Bird; Magnolia; Redstart; Myrtle; Connecticut; Tennessee; Blackpole; Mourning.

Philip A. DuMont is spending his second year in New York City. Phil is well known to the members of the I.O.U., having appeared on annual programs and Field Trips; and for his thesis on the "Birds of Iowa" written at the time of his graduation from Drake University. We are glad to note Mr. DuMont's rapid progress and to have the following article concerning his work in New York, as submitted by Mrs. DuMont - Phil's Mother - also a member of the I.O.U: Since last fall Phil DuMont has been at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, in the capacity of assistant to Dr. Murphy, the curator of marine birds. At present, his particular duty is to unpack the birds sent in by the Whitney expedition. This expedition is financed by Harry Payne Whitney, who has been in the islands of the Southern Pacific the past seven years. A detailed description may be found in the October 1925 National Geographic Magazine.

The birds come in cases, stuffed with excelsior, a tag on the log indicates the sex, time taken, from which island, color of the eye. Phil's job is to enter, classify as nearly as possible, and repack in air-tight cases. There are over 200 such cases-full. Some of the species are Fruit Pigeons, Parakeets; and tropic birds of gorgeous plumage; while - just now - a lot of fly-catchers are being worked over, which contain many more sub-species than have been found in any previous fly-catcher records or reports. None of the material from this expedition is yet mounted for display. There is much work to be done before that time comes.

Phil attended the American Ornithologist's Union meeting in Washington, D.C., early in November. He writes that Mr. Walter Bennett, of Sioux City, has a prominent place on the program with his illustrated lecture of "Island Bird Life in North Dakota", and that when his picture of the avocet was thrown on the screen the applause was the longest, loudest, and most spontaneous of the whole meeting. On his way home, Mr. Bennett called at the museum and Phil was delighted with the opportunity of showing him around. This year, as last, he is helping Mr. J.T. Nichols compile the reports of the Christmas Census as they come in, and the ones from Iowa are the ones that claim his special attention.

By notices of the 1927 Convention at Des Moines, it was voted that the Annual Dues, beginning Jan 1, 1928, for the I.O.U, shall be \$1.00-

It is time to have in mind the date of our annual meeting for the coming spring. Some of our members expressed a desire that they would like to meet again with the Iowa Conservation Association, and this had the unanimous endorsement of our officers and executive board. This was all however, with the understanding that it would be necessary for us to procure a spring date favorable to our annual bird hike, in connection with our meeting; for this hike has become a very important feature of our meeting. With this in mind, we have put the proposition up to Dr. G.B. McDonald, secretary of the Iowa Conservation Association. He favors a joint meeting at Ames and is glad to accommodate us with a date that is desirable for our purposes. We will try to procure either May 4, 5, and 6; or May 11, 12, and 13. Further information on this matter will be sent as soon as final arrangements are made for the meeting. In the meantime, it is hoped that a large number of our members can make arrangements to attend our annual meeting, so that the 1928 meeting may be the best ever.

Although it is a long time in the future to think of the dates of December 27, 1929, to January 2, 1930- we want the members to know that an event important to nature lovers for the state of Iowa, will take place on those dates. The American Association for Advancement of Science has selected the above dates for its annual meeting in two years from now, to take place in Des Moines, Iowa. It has been the custom for some time for the Wilson Ornithological Club to meet with the A.A.A.S. every other year when such meeting can be held in the Central West. The two associations are meeting this year at Nashville, Tenn; and so it is to be expected that the Wilson Ornithological Club will be favorable to meet in Des Moines in two years from now. We have been in touch with all of our officers on this matter and we have extended an invitation on behalf of the I.O.U. to the Wilson Ornithological Club to meet with us in two years from now. The Des Moines Audubon Society joined in this invitation to the Wilson Ornithological Club. We may expect to hear from the W.O.C. after their annual meeting, as to what action they have taken on this invitation. In the meantime it is not too early for all of us to have these dates in mind for

this is a very important event in which all of our members are deeply interested.

We extend to you our wishes for a very Prosperous Bird Year.

Sincerely,

A.J. Palas - President.

Kenneth R. Nelson - Secretary.