

D. C.); but war's alarms indicate that I may do better as an amateur hero. Yours iconoclastically, Orpheus C. Kerr.

Evidently Captain and Mrs. Howe were familiar with Newell's writings, perhaps had enjoyed reading them together. The Captain recalling that his condition was similar to that expressed by the humorist in the above lines, found it easy to parody them by changing "Kerr" to "King," making it Orpheus C. King, or "Office Seeking." In this subtle way he was conveying to Mrs. Howe his secret hope that a public office might come his way, and help them over their financial embarrassment. He evidently did not want anyone else to know he harbored such a thought. Captain Howe was much more diffident and modest about his political ambitions than some others of that period, or even than some of more recent times.

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### THE STATE BIRD OF IOWA

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The Forty-fifth General Assembly in compliance with the wishes of the Iowa Ornithological Union designated the beautiful Eastern Goldfinch as the official bird of Iowa. On March 16, 1933, Representative J. Wilbur Dole of Jefferson County introduced in the House (see House Journal, page 821) the following concurrent resolution:

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 22

Whereas, the Twenty-sixth General Assembly of the state of Iowa, in the year 1897, by concurrent resolution, adopted the Wild Rose as the state flower of Iowa, the record of which is duly recorded in the Senate Journal, pages 1124 and 1164, and in the House Journal, page 1025; and

Whereas, many states have not only adopted certain named flowers as their state flowers, but have also adopted certain named birds as their state birds, and

Whereas, the Iowa Ornithological Union, an association comprising students and lovers of birds, residing within our state, at their annual meeting held in Des Moines, Iowa, in May, 1932, by resolution and vote, designated the Eastern Goldfinch as their choice for a state bird, and recommended that said Eastern Goldfinch be adopted as the official state bird of Iowa, therefore

Be It Resolved in the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that the Eastern Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis tristis*, is hereby designated and shall hereafter be officially known as the state bird of Iowa.

The resolution was laid over under the rule and called up March 21 and was adopted. The same day it was messaged over to the Senate. On March 22 Senator William Carden of Henry County called up the resolution for consideration and moved its adoption. The motion prevailed and the resolution was adopted.

This is a small yellow bird popularly known as the wild canary. The male is bright yellow with black wings and tail and black top of head; the female is similarly marked, but not so brilliant. They are fairly common permanent residents in the southern part of the state, but less numerous in the north. They are often seen in flocks in undulating flight.

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#### LONGEST LEGISLATIVE SERVICE IN IOWA

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Attention has been called recently as to who in the history of the state has given longest service in the legislative branch of our government. The summary below shows the interesting facts.

William Larrabee, afterward governor, was a member of the Senate continuously from 1868 to 1886, or eighteen years.

David W. Kimberly of Davenport was a member of the House of Representatives four years, 1915 to 1919, and of the Senate sixteen years, 1919 to 1935, thus giving twenty years of continuous service in one or the other of the two branches.

John L. Wilson of Clinton was a member of the House of Representatives four years, 1894 to 1898, and of the Senate seventeen years, 1898 to 1915, giving twenty-one years of continuous service in one or the other branches.

No other legislator has equalled the length of service of any one of these three members excepting Lemuel R. Bolter of Logan, and he exceeded them, as he served in one or the other branch for eleven assemblies, twenty-two years, but his service was not continuous, and was between 1866 and 1902.

Senator Kimberly was re-elected last November and if he serves his coming four-year term he will have completed twenty-four years of continuous service in one or the other chamber of the assembly, and will exceed in length the service of any other member.

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