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DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

*Return to
Mr. DuMont*

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June 29, 1945.

Mr. Fred J. Pierce,
Editor, Iowa Bird Life,
Winthrop, Iowa.

Dear Fred:

I appreciate your reluctance in arbitrarily deciding that the birds seen by Mr. James Hodges of Davenport, Iowa were not Swallow-tailed Kites.

Nevertheless, the extreme rareness of these birds in recent years in all parts of the country requires that a more than normally critical review be made of any reports of these birds in the northern part of the country. I should be very hesitant to include a record in the literature of Iowa Birds lacking more convincing details on the observation.

Dr. Roberts in his "Birds of Minnesota" listed only two records in recent years and those were about 1921.

You recall also that in the Iowa list the only record after 1917 for Iowa was a specimen collected in Pottawattamie County during July 1931 and now in the Swenk collection.

Publication of a weak record will add nothing to the literature. If the article is returned to Mr. Hodges unpublished, as I think it should be, it would be because of the bird's extreme rareness and that any published observations should be based upon careful observations under the best possible conditions. The article is being returned for your disposition.

Very truly yours,

Phillip A. DuMont

Philip A. DuMont,
Senior Administrative Assistant,
Division of Wildlife Refuges.

Enclosure

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MAILED JUN 30 1945