



ELLIS MUSEUM OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
MAQUOKETA, IOWA I-18-33

Phillip A. DuMont

Dear Friend:

Replying to your letter of the 16th. relative to some of our birds will say that I am pleased to know that you could understand my report. Any way in regard to the Golden Eye duck. It has the white spot between the eye and the bill, but I took my identification of it from page 269 American Natural History by W. T. Hornaday. On that page he has a number of cuts of duck heads and this one is like the cut. It was killed Nov. 1st. 1931 on the Maquoketa River just West of town by J.A. Martin and G. F. Carson. Both shooting at once they both claimed the honor. I am possible wrong in the identification as you may not figure this white spot as a crescent. However if you ever come to Maquoketa I will let you examine it. Mr. John Dickinson and his three school mam daughters saw five of the snowy egrets on a sand bar near Sabula his home town Aug. 27th. 1932 and several times before that They were in my Museum on the date given and had seen them that day and he tried to get me to go down and see them but I did not feel I could spare the time just then and neglected going down later. He insisted that they were whooping cranes like a specimen I have but I figure he was mistaken in that for he insisted that they were snowy white all over. With black legs I do not have any specimen of the Artic horned owl. I used to mount specimens for the public and several years ago I mounted a horn owl that is marked much like the Artic Owl but I figured it was an albino though it did not have pink eyes. I mounted it for a Mr. Bolte of near Bellevue Ia. and I think he still has it. I only occasionally see a yellow head black bird here and then only one at a time and on each occasion there has only been one and it was with either grackels or red wing black birds. The last one I saw was in Otter Creek Twp. It seemed quite tame and I drove back to the nearest farm home and asked a young fellow to shoot it for me and he insisted that there was several of them and that they were staying there so in the interest of conservation I changed my mind and thought better let them remain there. Dr. Paul Nesbitt of the Logan Museum of Beloit were doing some excavating in mounds down in Ark. last year and we saw plenty of them down there. In regard to our local flock of Mocking Birds will swear on a stack of bibles or anything else that they come here in good numbers each year and nest here and have as far back as 1914. You will excuse the printing of this letter for I recently had my type writer repaired and cleaned and the repair man put the stop and go part of it on the blink and I will have to wait until another transient comes along to fix it.

yours truly, *Frank E. Ellis*

P.S. My son Francis V. Ellis is still at Iowa City in law school. Will graduate the last of the month. He is quite a bird fan. & lives at the Phi Delta Theta House, FE.