

Musgrove

2414 Adams Ave.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
May 4, 1980

Dear Mr. Kent,

About 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, we observed a male pileated woodpecker in the timbered gully which is the back yard of our home in northern Des Moines. The bird remained about five minutes, tearing bark off a dead tree, then flew towards the Des Moines River which is about four or five blocks from us.

We have seen these woodpeckers in the past, rarely, in northeastern Iowa, mostly at McGregor, and are familiar with them. This is the first time either of us has seen one in central Iowa.

We are located near Veterans Hospital. Because the gully behind our house is very steep, most neighbors long since gave up trying to civilize it and it's pretty much a natural timber with white and red oaks, an occasional basswood or wild cherry, and a few dead elms, and with wild flowers abundant. We operate a bird feeding station back of the house year-round. We regularly see all types of resident woodpeckers along with the types of birds one expects in such an environment. The river, four or five blocks to the east, is timbered and wild most of the way from the Saylorville Reservoir to Sixth Avenue in Des Moines, and it was toward such an area that the bird flew.

We have watched for it since then but haven't seen it, though the dead tree has been worked on by something, possibly other woodpeckers.

Sincerely,

*Mary Musgrove*

Jack W. and Mary R. Musgrove