



THE HAWK & OWL SOCIETY

Co-operating with the National Association of Audubon Societies



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132-24 Maple Ave
Flushing, N. Y.
Oct. 3, 1939

Dear Mr. Albert,

Margaret Brook, the editor of Bird-Lore, has just called my attention to your article in the last issue of 19. Bird-Life.

I've been gradually working up a census of duck hawk eyries east of the Rockies, and your account fills a most important gap. I believe that the peregrine is a forgotten bird in great many places, and you certainly deserve hearty congratulations for pointing out its real status in north-eastern Iowa.

Three questions come to mind after reading your remarks on this species.

1. Is the pair which Barthell ~~observed~~ observed above Lansing in the summers up to 1933 the same one which Kaufman located in '39 above town?

2. Could a couple of observers be induced to check your father's old cliff at Waupeton? Duck hawks are very tenacious, you know. The best time is early in the morning in April or in June. [Incidentally I've found that a single survey from the base of the cliff — provided it's a good-sized cliff — frequently gives a negative result which may be in error.]
3. Just how much good duck hawk country is there in eastern Iowa? Bailey (1918) claims there is quite a lot.

Twenty-seven duck hawks were banded as fledglings last spring here in the East. But the tips in banding technique was not developed until last week by some falconers with unusual imagination. On the duck hawk flying ^{way} in Md., they drove along roads until they spotted a young falcon perched on a sand dune. One of the party was at once buried in the sand, his head + arms covered by a basket. Then a pigeon was released with a cord attached to a leg. 12 out of 55 peregrines promptly grabbed this bait — which the sand covered man pulled inward the basket... and then I caught a surprised hawk with his bare hands! Twelve birds Sun.; four the week before. [You don't have to believe this but I got it from R. H. Pough.]

Sincerely yours
Jos. J. Hickey