

ELLISON ORR

WAUKON, IOWA

May 17th, 1939.

Dear Mr. Allert:

When I first began to "go down to the Junction", some forty years ago, there was near the north end of the precipice at that place, a jutting ledge of rock, about 8 X 10 ft., perhaps a hundred feet above the river, on which there was a bulky nest of sticks and trash, which "Old Jim Hancock", a fisherman with whom I domiciled, said was supposed to be the nest of a pair of eagles in the very earliest days of the settlement of the country.

But eagles did not nest there at any time after my visits began.

This ledge, some 25 or 30 years ago broke off from the precipice and in its fall tore away a part of the highway and damaged the rail road track.

One spring I saw about the river at the Junction at one time, some four or five eagles. "Jim" said that they were feeding on the dead fish thrown away by the fishermen.

I never shot an eagle - never got near enough when I had a gun, - nor did I ever have a "stuffed" one. However along through those early years they were not an uncommon sight during the spring and fall migrations.

Mr. Kaufman, the game warden, who lives at Lansing, Ia., told me last winter of a flock of some 30 to 40 that hung about the open water below the Guttenberg dam for some weeks. He said that at the same time there were also many ducks there but that he saw no signs of the eagles preying on them. The eagles, he said, were feeding on dead fish that came through the dam, while the ducks foraged in the near-by corn fields for the waste corn.

You should contact Kaufman. He is a careful and reliable observer, and the story of this apparently very unusual gathering for Iowa should be made a matter of record.

I had thought at the time to write a short account of it for the Iowa Bird Life but deferred it, thinking that some one with more data would probably write it up.

By the way anything that Wines tells you must ^{not} be taken too seriously. He is very unreliable.

Respectfully yours,

Ellison Orr