

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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Department of Animal Ecology
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1 September 1978

Mr. Mike Allert
Great River Nursing Home
McGregor, Iowa 52157

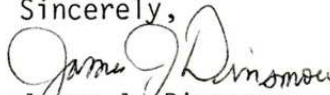
Dear Mr. Allert:

I guess the best place to start this letter is to introduce myself. I am a professor at Iowa State where I teach the ornithology and vertebrate biology classes. This morning I had a nice visit with Mrs. Evelyn Bentley and her daughter who told me of your continuing interest in birds and natural history. I had often wondered where the O. P. Allert who provided so many fine bird mounts to Iowa State was. They gave me your address so I was glad I could write you.

The bird mounts are now housed in our vertebrate museum on campus. Virtually all of the mounts are in glass-enclosed cases so that they can be seen by students, faculty, and visitors to campus. The birds have held up amazingly well through time and generally are still in good shape. We have them arranged by family and order and of course they show examples of virtually all of the Iowa species plus many more. I use the birds extensively in both my ornithology and vertebrate biology classes. Since the museum is open throughout the day, students are in there almost all day long taking notes on the specimens, comparing species etc. Art classes on campus also visit the collection frequently and draw the various species for class assignments. The museum is visited frequently by school classes, scout groups, etc and is also a very popular place every spring for Iowa State's Veishea celebration that brings thousands of Iowans to campus.

We try to do our best to keep the collection clean and to keep insects out and so far they have done very well. Your mounts certainly were very well done and have retained much of their beauty. I know that we find them to be an extremely useful resource here at Iowa State, both for teaching and for pure enjoyment. If there are other things I can tell you about the collection or ornithology at Iowa State, I will try to give you an answer.

Sincerely,


James J. Dinsmore
Associate Professor

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