

ELLISON ORR

WAUKON, IOWA

Mar. 10th, 1934.

Mr. Oscar P. Allert,  
McGregor, Ia.

Dear Sir:

In a copy of "A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa", recently received, I note that the author, DuMont, in his Introduction, on page 10, says: "The Duck Hawk, while still occurring rarely as a migrant, has not nested in Iowa since 1898."

It may be of interest to you to know that, while spending a week on the Mississippi River last June, I saw, every time that I passed the ~~third~~ high precipice about one mile above Waukon Junction, one or a pair of these birds perched or flying about the place. May 17

I think there was no question as to the identity. The place frequented, the actions and the cry were as I remembered them of a pair that nested for three or more years in a hole in the first high precipice just north of Waukon Junction *about 1900*.

In those days I used to go down to "the river" several times each summer on a fishing trip. The old fisherman, "Jim Hancock", of whom I got my boat, cursed fluently this pair of hawks that were carrying off his chickens, which he set great store by.

Although a first class wing shot he was unable to get them. They would come in under the trees, snatch up a chicken and be off before he could reach his gun, and when he watched, gun in hand, they never came.

He showed me the place where they nested and several times I saw them fly in there.

A year ago last summer I also saw a pair about the cliffs. From their actions and from their continued presence there, I am quite certain that <sup>they</sup> were nesting.

If you are interested and I see them about next summer when I am down on the river, I will advise you.

I take it that you are one of the younger generation. Your people may remember me as the manager of the old Standard Telephone Company. Minnie Yearous, who I believe was a relative of yours, was for many years our operator at Giard.

Respectfully yours,

Ellison Orr