

LINWOOD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

2735 WINDSOR AVENUE — DUBUQUE, IOWA

LAWRENCE A. BJONERUD
SECRETARY-SUPERINTENDENT

May 16, 1966

Mr. Frederic Leopold
Leopold Company
Burlington, Iowa

Dear Mr. Leopold;

I read with interest the article in the Des Moines Register about the wood ducks which you have been raising.

We have had a strange experience here in that we have had a mallard duck hatch in an elm tree and the nest is about fifteen feet from the ground.

We first saw the duck on the grass and thought perhaps it had been hurt. However one day the duck flew off the nest. The nest is in the fork of an old elm tree and three of the large branches form an excellent place for a nest as it is quite well hidden.

During the hatching period the duck would not fly off the nest no matter how often a person went by. We have even thrown shelled corn to her in the nest and she has not left it. We did not show the nest to many people as we were afraid some people would destroy the nest and try and kill the duck. Some people wanted to have the paper notified so as to give it publicity but we did not give our consent.

Last Wednesday morning it was raining and when I drove by the duck stood on the edge of the nest as though it was going to fly. I thought perhaps the eggs had hatched and did not stop for any length of time. It rained all forenoon so I did not go back to the nest. At noon one of our men said he had driven by at 9 A.M., an hour later than when I was there, and the duck was gone. We drove to the nest and looked into it, having a ladder with us. All that was in the nest was egg shells. Then we walked around but saw nothing. There are shrubs in the vicinity.

About an hour later I went back and the duck was on the grass. I was in the car on one side of the road and she was on the other side. I finally got out of the car and the duck flew about 80 feet and sat on the grass. I left and went back about a half hour later and the duck was on the nest.

I mentioned this to a man who does a lot of fishing and hunting in Wisconsin and has studied ducks quite extensively. He informed me that the little ducklings were in the immediate vicinity and the duck carried on this way to detract my attention. I did look for the ducklings but it was so wet that I quit. Later on I went back and then the duck was gone and we have not seen her since. We are at least a mile from the river and in order to get to the river one must cross several streets.

At first we thought it was a wood duck but some of the bird club members showed us it was a mallard and one could easily see that it was after

