

May 18, 1966

Mr. Lawrence A. Bjonerud
Linwood Cemetery Association
2735 Windsor Avenue
Dubuque, Iowa

Dear Mr. Bjonerud:

I am interested in the account in your letter of May 16th of the duck that nested in the tree near your house. It might be worth your while to try and check up to make sure as to whether this duck was a mallard or whether it may have been a wood duck. The two look very much alike, especially in the female version. The female wood duck can always be identified by a very prominent white ring around each eye. This is not present in any other duck that I know of.

You speak of seeing two other mallards flying in the cemetery and that your man saw a pair in a tree. Mallards do not alight in trees. Wood ducks do.

The bird that nested in the elm fork near your house could have been a mallard despite the fact that this was up in the tree, because I assume that this was rather a large, and more or less flat area on which a mallard would have no trouble in standing, but mallards are not competent or able to perch upon a limb of medium or small size.

Yours very truly,

Frederic Leopold

FL:MB