

July 27, 1935
Lake Malheur Refuge
Burns, Oregon

Dear Walter:

Was glad to have your letter enclosing the article from the Open Forum. I talked to Sandvig one of the times that I was up there, during the construction of the dams and he was complaining then about the water flooding out ten acres of his corn. That was before the dam was ever constructed. When I showed him the topo survey that had been made and where the water would actually come he seemed perfectly satisfied.

I think that you and I made a count of cattle that time when we were up there. I am sure that any local feeling will cool down after the first few months of real use of the area.

Glad that you and Bill Vogt got lined up. Bill wrote me the same as you related that he now wanted to use the article early next spring. In some ways such an article is a seasonal one.

If you wrote up something on your's and Bob's big day it should be from a comparative standpoint. In other words show the possibilities in Iowa as contrasted with the eastern seaboard. I should think a short article analysing the possibilities of field bird study, as exemplified by that trip might be O.K. However, it shouldn't be just a list of the birds seen.

The ducks gather in the wedge-shaped glaciated area in northwestern Iowa because of the presence of water, protected areas, and especially because of the availability of lots of feed (corn shelled from the pickers). Then they jump way south all at one time. They feed around the protected areas in corn fields, flocks having been followed as far as 81 miles (within six miles of Sioux Falls, S.D.). They jump right to Green Bay, the Mississippi River on to the south and probably clear to Arkansas.

I think the consideration by the Commission of an open season on Doves is inspired by a few people and has not been urged by the large mass of hunters, who are not particularly concerned one way or another. It would only work in the southern half of the state because the birds move south in August, but they concentrate in southern Iowa. The season shouldn't open until Sept. 1st. It could go a month without doing the birds any great harm. The shooting along the roads is the worst point of it.

Work here is going in great shape. Write again when time permits. What is Walter, Jr., doing now?