

MR. SERGEJ POSTUPALSKY
7283 Lozier
Warren, Michigan, U.S.A.
July 17, 1963



KEITH K. KREAG, PRESIDENT
3802 N. MAIN STREET
ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN

ANN MAYER BOYES, SECRETARY
19164 PENNINGTON DRIVE
DETROIT 21, MICHIGAN
UN. 4-9243

Mr. Percival Dodge
Huron Mountain Club
Big Bay, Michigan

Dear Mr. Dodge:

This is just to let you know that I did fly over the H.M.C. area the afternoon after I left you. From the air I located both nests in the Rush Lake area. To my consternation I found that I was in error regarding the location of the new one. It is in a dead (or partially dead) tree on the edge of the last ridge before Lake Superior; it is not to the west of Huron River Point, but rather southeast of the point. See sketch on reverse side.

The only way I can try to explain this error is that while circling over the area we were coming from inland, reached the shore west of the point, and followed it eastward while looking for the nest. Having spotted the eyrie we were apparently unaware that we had passed over the point.

The pond as well as a red cottage ~~was~~ also seen from the air. The skeet-field and the old, roof-less shack near the old nest showed up well when viewed from above.

The new eyrie was empty, as was the one in the Yellow-dog Swamp. Things look really bad in the Marquette area as bald eagles go, and the situation is not any better on the Keewenaw Peninsula and on Isle Royale. In all I know of only 21 productive nests out of about 80 active ones for the whole state.

Many, many thanks for your enthusiastic help with this project! Best regards to Mrs. Dodge.

Sincerely yours,

Sergej
Sergej Postupalsky, Chairman,
Michigan Bald Eagle Survey
Detroit Audubon Society

P.S.: Looking at the detailed map of the H.M.C. I note that there are actually two ponds in the area; one in NW-SE Sec. 18, the other in NW-SW Sec. 17. The nest is due NW of the latter (17). On the first flight I must have thought that the pond I saw was the one in 18, which is probably what threw me off.

MR. SERGEJ POSTUPALSKY
7283 Lozier
Warren, Michigan, U.S.A.

October 10, 1963



KEITH K. KREAG, PRESIDENT
3802 N. MAIN STREET
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19164 PENNINGTON DRIVE
DETROIT 21, MICHIGAN
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Mr. Percival Dodge
Huron Mountain Club
Big Bay, Michigan

Dear Mr. Dodge:

Many thanks for your good letters of July 19 and October 7. It is good to know that Bald Eagles may be nesting at Ives Mt. I shall make it a point to investigate that area next spring.

Now, concerning the adult and immature eagles seen near Huron River Point and near Stone Dock this summer. On the basis of my observations this spring and summer, I doubt that the young birds could have been reared on any of the nests I checked this year. Possibly the birds were raised on some unknown eyrie further inland, and brought to the shore as soon as they were able to fly. The nest near Huron River Pt. was definitely empty when I flew over on July 2; there were no droppings visible at the edges of the eyrie, and no eagles were noted in the vicinity, although we circled the area repeatedly.

The pair seen on May 4 at the nest (#2) north of Conway Lake would not have had enough time to reneest elsewhere and have fledged young by the middle of July. Incubation takes about 35 days (Herrick) and the young spend 10 - 13 weeks on the nest (also acc. to Herrick). The fact that adults and immatures are seen together does not necessarily mean that the latter are young of the year. We have some evidence suggesting that young eagles may stay close to their parents through the following summer. Apparently the old birds tolerate them in their territory if they (the ads.) do not reneest or otherwise fail to raise another brood the following year. I have observed something like this at Perch Lake in Iron county. During 1961 & 1962, both, adults and immatures (2 and/or 3-year olds) were observed together, while none of the nests in the immediate vicinity produced. This year, one young was raised at Perch Lake, and no "adolescents" were noted "hanging around". That such a correlation could exist is, off course just an educated guess on my part. - There is always a possibility that another, yet unknown nest exists somewhere in the Stony Dock-Salmon Trout River area. Or, the young may have been raised at the nest (wh. pine) near the Salmon T. R., NE Sec. 31, either last year or the year before. Old nests are sometimes used as roosts; this might explain the droppings under the Stony Dock nest. All we can do, is to speculate.

Please note in the encl. bulletin that the time for the next "winter" survey has been extended to cover the period from Oct. 1 through March 31. Perhaps you could distribute a few of the report forms among the staff at HMC, and ask them to report any eagles they may see? A summary on 1963 nesting should be out later this fall. I am going to Wayne St. U. 4 nights a week now, so eagle things are progressing rather slowly.

Sincerely yours,

*I bet the color must be just
gorgeous at HMC this time of year!*

Sergej

2926 W. 13 Mile Rd.
Royal Oak, Mich. 48072
December 26, 1964



KEITH K. KREAG, PRESIDENT
3802 N. MAIN STREET
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ANN MAYER BOYES, SECRETARY
19164 PENNINGTON DRIVE
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Mr. Percival Dodge
45 Dyar Lane
Grosse Pointe, Mich.

Dear Mr. Dodge:

First of all, let me acknowledge receipt of your good letter of June 13 with the enclosed eagle observations by Leo Wuori, and apologise for not writing sooner. Last summer I went to the U.M. Biological Station to take Dr. Pettingill's ornithology course and a botany course. I had hoped to have the eagle survey completed by the time classes started, but got behind due to several days of bad weather. So I had to leave the station on days when there were no classes and finish the eagle work as best as I could. At first I had delayed writing to you, in the hope that I would be able to visit you at the H.M.C. in order to check some of the eagle nests and also to collect a few ferns for my botany project. With the heavy work schedule at the station, my trip to H.M.C., and the letter that was to precede it, were postponed from week to week, and before I knew it, the eight short weeks were over. I hope that you enjoyed your summer's stay at the H.M.C. as much as I enjoyed the Biological Station!

I have quit my job with Chrysler, as I told you in May I would, and am now a full-time student at Wayne State University, which move put certain limitations on my activities. However, the eagle survey work must go on, even if I do get behind with my correspondence and report-writing. This fall, I have also given up my bachelorhood, and am now a happily married man!

Below is a short summary of my eagle observations on H.M.C. and vicinity:
Flight on Apr. 26, 1964:

Point Abbaye - nest in maple inactive (act. 1963)

Van Zellens Camp, W. of the mouth of Huron River - one adult in nest in pine, another perched nearby.

Rush Lake - Huron River Point: nest #1 (S of trail) has one adult sitting tight; nest #2 (this is the one we looked for in 1963) near Lake Superior is empty. - Had to return to Marquette due to trouble with engine icing.

Flight on May 17, 1964:

Pine on Granite Point - inactive.

Pine in Yellow Dog Swamp - inactive (active in 1963).

Maple near Stone Dock near Conway Point - inactive.

Pine near mouth of Salmon Trout River (seen in 1963) could not be found.

One adult on nest #3 north of Conway Lake (the tall tree visible from your cabin; Sandy and I looked for it for hours in 1962). Nest #2 (nearer to Conway Lake) inactive.



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Nest #1 N of Rush Lake: one adult still sitting.

Flew over Rush Lake, the Pine Lakes, around Mt. Ives and Ives Lake. No eagles or nests observed.

New nest on Silver Lake Basin, in tall pine on SW shore in SW-SE Sec. 7, T49N, R28W. One adult sitting.

Two adults at an empty nest in pine NE of deer Lake, SW-SW Sec. 22, T48N, R27W.

Another quick overflight was made in the evening of July 1, 1964:

Yellowdog Swamp: empty.

Conway Lake #2 and #3 both empty.

Rush Lake - Huron River Point: #1 empty. Nest #2, nearer to L. Superior, also empty, with one adult perched in nearby cedar.

Van Zellen's Camp: empty.

Silver Lake Basin: not sure of contents due to advancing darkness; possibly one young or one adult; exact identity of dark object in nest could not be made out; might have been just a shadow. Will have to put this one down as "nesting success unknown".

From the above observations one can conclude that 4 pairs of bald eagles nested in the greater Huron Mountain area (Conway Lake, Rush Lake, Von Zellens, and Silver Lake) and a fifth pair was present without nesting (Deer Lake). No young are definitely known to have been raised in that area in 1964. Outcome of nesting at Silver Lake is unknown. (One young was raised at Silver Lake, in a nest now fallen, in 1962).

I would be delighted to have a note on any of your observations for later in the summer and fall. As I recall, your observations during 1963 suggest that eagles from inland may be coming to the shore of Lake Superior in late summer. I am enclosing a couple of report forms, and would appreciate if you would again ask Mr. Wuori (or any other reliable observer at H.M.C.) to be on the lookout for eagles this winter and spring. The enclosed poster may help in identification.

I hope that you and Mrs. Dodge had a nice Christmas, and wish you both all the best in the New Year!

Sincerely yours,

Sergej Postupalsky
Sergej Postupalsky

N ↑
LAKE SUPERIOR

HURON RIVER POINT

new nest in this area
SW-NW sec 17 approx.

□ roof-
less
shed

x old nest

18 pond

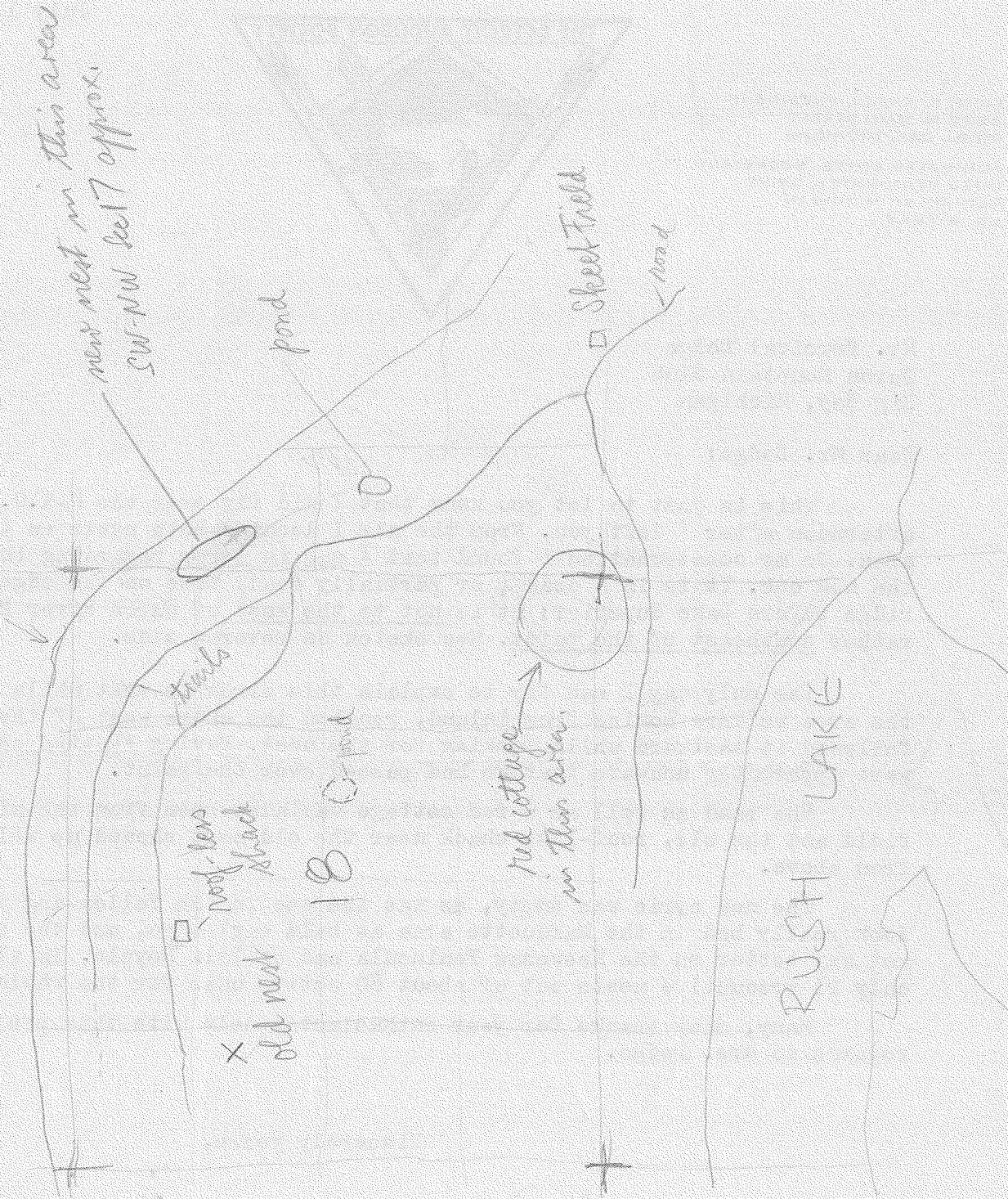
pond

red cottage
in this area.

□ Sheep Field

← road

RUSH LAKE



S. POSTUPALSKY
2926 W. 13 MILE RD.
ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN

May 27, 1965



DR. WATSON A. GILPIN
1539 LOCHRIDGE ROAD
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICH.

ANN MAYER BOYES, SECRETARY
19164 PENNINGTON DRIVE
DETROIT 21, MICHIGAN
UN 4-9243

Mr. Percival Dodge
45 Dyar Lane
Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

Dear Mr. Dodge:

Finally I am getting around to writing up the results of my eagle survey flight over the Huron Mountain area. The flight was made on April 24 between 3:45 and 5:30 pm.

Active nests:

- 1) Salmon Trout River, NE NW Sec. 31; white pine near bend of river. One adult sitting tight, another perched in tall pine downriver.
- 2) Huron River Point (#2) hardwood on ridge near lake; one adult standing on edge of nest. Nest contained a whitish object. Not sure if young or prey.
- 3) Von Zellen's Camp, W of Big Huron River in tall white pine. One adult sitting tight.
- 4) Deer Lake, SW SW Sec. 22, T48N, R27W, in white pine; one adult apparently incubating, the other adult nearby.

Inactive nests:

Yellow Dog Swamp
Conway Point (Stone Dock)
Conway Lake - Pine River Point #2 and #3 - probably moved to Salmon T. R.
Rush Lake - Huron River Point #1
Point Abbaye
Silver Lake Basin - last year's nest down; no trace of another nest.

Gull Island, Huron Islds.

This year's count now stands at 79 active nests in the state including Isle Royale. I am starting the follow-up survey to determine the number of young raised next week. Hope to finish the Lower Peninsula before going to the Biological Station.

Catherine Susan P. joined us Sunday pm, May 23. 7 lbs. 9 ozs., 21". Both mother and daughter doing fine, due to come home tomorrow.

Hope that you'll have an enjoyable summer at the Club.

Cordially,

Encl/ maps

Sergej
Sergej Postupalsky

P.S. No need to return the maps.