

December 15, 1932

Mr. Alfred L. Tate,
Remington and Rand Inc.,
312 State Street,
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Tate:

I have your letter relating to the practicality of game farming in Iowa, and which has been referred to me by the Agricultural Extension Service.

My work deals with the encouragement of upland game under natural or nearly natural conditions rather than with artificial propagation, but since I have from time to time certain relations with persons engaged in game farming, I might be in a position to give you a little information.

I would strongly advise against your going into a commercial venture of this kind, especially at the present time when the field looks decidedly overcrowded; when the market price for most game farm-reared birds is so low, ~~that~~ ^{that} the best, even long established and exceptionally well managed game farms, can do is to hold on. I have heard this complaint over and over again from a number of people whom I list as my personal friends and who are surely in a position to know.

From the standpoint of conservation, I do not see how the game farm as an institution can supply nearly the birds necessary to provide a large hunting population something to shoot; and I think we might just as well look to other sources such as management in the wild through manipulation of food, cover, etc., to keep our wild life at comparatively satisfactory levels. However, game farms could serve a very important function in other respects, namely, through the raising of first-class northern bobwhites, which would be available to persons wishing to stock completely depleted coverts, thus tending to do away with the biologically indefensible practices of importing southern birds to be released in the north. It seems to me also that game farms could render an important service during periods when normally cyclic species such as prairie chickens and ruffed grouse are at the "low" part of their cycle by raising in captivity birds for restocking areas that have been wiped out

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by periodic disease. Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, is doing some work of this nature, which looks extremely promising.

I hope then that you may find a little information of value in this letter.

Very truly yours,

PLE*B

Paul L. Errington,
Asst. Prof. Wild Life Research