

January 24, 1933

Mr. Arthur L. Clark,
Supt. State Board of Fisheries and Game,
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Clark:

I appreciate having been placed upon the Advisory Council of your Game Bird Standards Committee.

I regret that my data on pheasants and wild turkeys are so meagre that I do not consider myself qualified to propose any criteria by which high quality in these species can be judged. However, in going over some of my old quail notes I find some figures which perhaps may be of interest to you.

The winter specimens taken during the Wisconsin Quail Investigation averaged 197 grams for adults and juveniles mixed. These were birds collected at random and were in good condition.

Relative to game farm reared northern bobwhites: On February 2, 1931, Otto Beyer and I weighed the 16 birds which he had reared on his game farm at Portage, Wisconsin. These averaged 195 grams, which may be taken as representing the weights of the best northern bobwhites that I know of raised in captivity. On the basis of these figures then, I would judge 195 grams to be a fair weight standard for game farm bobwhites on the northern fringe of the species range. Of course, there was considerable variation in weights among these birds, those showing adult characteristics (blunt, first primary, ~~see~~ Stoddard) averaging 197 grams, and juveniles averaging 192 grams. I doubt if any practical difficulty would arise on account of individual captives putting on an unusual amount of weight and so lessening the utility of this standard; none of the captive birds with which I have had experience had any tendency to do this.

I have made no study of plumage of any species so I am not qualified to pass upon points relating to coloration, etc. My researches have been predominately ecological in nature with a view toward management under field conditions rather than artificial propagation. I do realize, nevertheless, the extreme importance of a first class stock of northern bob-

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whites available through game farms for persons desiring to stock areas in the northern states; with really high grade birds available perhaps there would be less introductions of inferior birds from the South such as has been carried on altogether too much in the past according to the concensus of the evidence.

This winter we are carrying on some studies with pheasants both in the wild and in captivity, and we hope to work out criteria by which may be ascertained the physical condition of these birds. If anything of consequence arises from our experiments and observations the results will be made available.

Very truly yours,

PLE*B

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