

January 27, 1933

Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kendeigh:

I received your reprints the other day and noted with particular interest your figures on bobwhite populations in Ohio. Personally, I have been quite unable to get any data on quail populations over large areas, though I do think my actual counts of populations in small areas during the winter months are accurate, especially when checked by track counts on suitable snow.

I perceive that you calculate the net annual increase for your populations to be about 50%. I find that this varies a great deal according to quail densities. For example, a low quail population (a bird per 100 acres), considerably below the carrying capacity of the environment, is comparatively exempt from environmental pressure and may show a net increase of 250% or higher from, let us say, one New Years to the next; populations of around one bird per 40 acres have shown a net increase of 150%; populations of one bird per 20 acres increase at the rate of around 80%.

As the populations ascend the environmental pressure becomes progressively heavier. I have not yet found in any of my observational areas any population levels at which no further increase occurs, aside from the drastic reductions caused by wholesale starvation, etc. I have, however, work going in one area for the fourth consecutive year and if things turn out right, it may be possible to demonstrate for a given set of conditions at just what population levels further increase cannot normally be expected.

I expect to write up these data within the next few months, and if they mean anything I will see to it that you get either reprints or manuscript copies.

Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh

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I am sending you a few of my recent reprints dealing mainly with the results of raptor studies.

I never found out whether the Wisconsin Conservation Commission sent you the quail that you wanted last year for experimental purposes. They agreed to do this, and I reminded them a couple times, but they were having difficulty trapping the birds on account of the openness of the winter. Whether they finally sent you any or not, I do not know; I have something of a suspicion that they did not, in which event I hope that you were put to no inconvenience.

Very truly yours,

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