

February 16, 1933

Mr. Arthur L. Clark,
Superintendent, State Board of Fisheries and Game,
State Office Building,
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Clark:

This letter may be taken as an explanation of what I meant in a previous correspondence by "best northern bobwhites".

Aldo Leopold, in his Game Survey of the North Central States, (American Game Association, 1931) states on page 31 "It seems that the purest native stock remaining in the north central region is that of Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Iowa." Quail become conspicuously hardier as well as larger on the northern fringe of the range. So, of these states the native birds are doubtless those of Wisconsin and Michigan, particularly of Wisconsin, where the vicissitudes of winter, I understand are more severe than those ordinarily experienced in the Michigan quail country.

Otto Beyer's birds, as I seem to recall, were hatched from wild Wisconsin eggs. Furthermore, I have sufficient faith in Otto Beyer's integrity to believe that birds he represents as native Wisconsin bobwhites are in fact just that. There are other bobwhites raised on northern game farms, but of questionable origin. Indeed, there are rumors to the effect that some game breeders import birds from southern states and sell them at fancy prices as northern bobwhites.

In case you wish more birds from Wisconsin, I suggest that you get in touch with William F. Grimmer, Superintendent of Game, Wisconsin Conservation Commission, Madison, Wisconsin. You might possibly be able to make some sort of arrangements with him, by which he might trap for you some wild birds. I don't know whether he would, or could do this; I am mentioning it merely as a possibility.

I don't know anything about the Massachusetts strain of bobwhites which you mention. I would suspect very much, that unless you were quite sure of their origin, that they are not of undiluted stock. The planting of Mexican birds, I understand, has been going on in Massachusetts for many years.

Mr. Arthur L. Clark

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You might get in touch with Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell or some other rating ornithologist to find out what they know about it. I can speak quite positively, however, that the available evidence indicates that the Wisconsin bob-white is likely about the best strain adapted for northern existence that we have in the United States. My recent quail investigation was located in Wisconsin, primarily to study the birds living under the most adverse environmental conditions that the species could stand.

Very truly yours,

PLE*B

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