

Biological Survey Station

Ruthven, Iowa

July 27, 1933

Mr. W. L. Mc Atee
In Charge, Food Habits Research,
United States Biological Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mc Atee:

Some months ago you sent me a number of tags such as the one I am enclosing for the purpose of marking stomach contents, and so forth, to be kept in formaldehyde. We have made excellent use of these tags, but unfortunately we are about out. Could you spare some more? I think that you would be officially justified in doing this, for your office will eventually receive most of our food habits specimen material anyway - at any rate, about as much as you wish.

I am working heroically to get into some sort of legible shape my manuscript, "Environmental Pressure on Bobwhite Populations". The data, now that I have them organized, appear even better than I had at first considered them. I think this material will be of certain interest to you. You may expect a manuscript for criticism possibly in a month or so.

You might be interested to know that we have been getting some very good data on waterfowl this summer at our Ruthven wild life biological station. Bennett alone had under observation around one hundred thirty three duck nests, and he reports exceptionally good hatches. Among these nests might be mentioned one of black duck, two of ruddy duck, and three of redhead. We are also engaged in building up a bone and skin reference collection for predator food habits studies. We have a vast amount of horned owl pellets, marsh hawk gullets, fox stomachs, and fox and mink feces, which we believe we will be able to handle ourselves. Doubtless there will be occasional specimens which we, with our limited experience and facilities, will find too difficult for us, and so I might call upon your office to help us out to some extent. However, I have an idea that you are quite hard pressed there at Washington, and hence will not ask of you any more than we can possibly avoid.

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Barbours, Iowa

Perhaps it would be well for you to let me know just what your office wants and is in a position to handle, for I have received nothing except unofficial information as to how budget cuts and the like have curtailed your activities.

Yours very truly,

Paul L. Errington
Assistant Professor,
In Charge, Wild Life Research.

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