

October 5, 1933

Mr. Aldo Leopold,  
Old Soils Building,  
University of Wisconsin,  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Leopold:

I am returning a couple old letters of yours, which I recently discovered in my file.

I talked over with Dean Buchanan the matter of the College publishing your game survey, and he seems very willing to cooperate, although he didn't know exactly how it should best be handled. If it were published in the Iowa State College Journal of Science as your individual contribution, no complications would arise, although you or someone else would have to buy the necessary reprints, which would cost considerable money. On the other hand if the survey is to be published as a College bulletin, I must have some conspicuous connection with it, for it would not look exactly regular for the Institution to be publishing a work done by someone not officially connected with the College at any time. Dean Buchanan thought that possibly the demands of propriety might be satisfied if I wrote an introductory chapter explaining the value of the work, etc. This means in effect that I would have to assume official responsibility for it.

Before I would be willing to do this the manuscript would have to be given a thorough revision and brought up to date in accordance with facts now at hand. For example, the discussion of the status of pheasants in the southern part of the state would need to be profoundly modified for the situation there does not look at all as it did when you made your game survey. There are also numerous known inaccuracies to be weeded out, and questionable conclusions to be "soft-pedaled".

In looking over hastily the manuscript (my copy lacks the first chapter) I saw many things for which I am <sup>not</sup> in a position to vouch officially. All in all the whole needs going over carefully, and I have a feeling that the report should stress generalizations which are more or less apparent to well-posted residents. One thing that I object to in particular relates to certain specific examples which you give pertaining to various questions and for which the authority can have little if any scientific status. A number of these sportsmen, whom you contacted, and who furnished you material, I do not consider truly reliable observers.

If I am to vouch for the report I want to do <sup>it</sup> ~~the~~ right. ~~thing~~. I do not wish critics to be in a position to poke holes in the entire structure, largely on account of something which I do not consider necessary to include.



Mr. Aldo Leopold

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Somehow I feel that I have badly handled the discussion of this matter in this letter, although you may be able to understand what I am laboring to convey. I would ask you for a copy of your most up to date manuscript of the report for reworking only I do not see any immediate chance to spend any amount of time on it. I am trying desperately to finish my quail population paper within the next few days in order that I may send you a copy for criticism before its final submission to the Wilson Bulletin before the middle of the month. You may expect this within a few days.

I had a good talk with the President yesterday and he appeared very well satisfied with the work, and even did some talking in terms of future continuance of the Wild Life Studies at the College after the present program has been concluded.

Sincerely yours,

PLE\*B

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