

Biology Building
Madison, Wisconsin
February 11, 1931

Mr. Gardiner Bump
Department of Conservation
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Bump:

I noted somewhere or other that you are carrying on experiments with birds of prey to determine their method of feeding in the wild.

I might remark that the captives that I used in my work last spring did not behave typically unless they were given live prey, or at least prey so freshly killed that rigor mortis had not set in. A horned owl, for example, which normally would bite the head off the animal it had just killed, if fed one ^{dead} ~~would~~ for some time as ^{would} likely as not start in eating almost any place.

I trust that you will not consider it presumptuous on my part to call this to your attention. I experienced some trouble myself in this respect, so thought you might be able to use this bit of information.

Yours sincerely,

Paul L. Errington
Quail Investigation
S.A.A.M.I., U. S. Biol. Survey,
& University of Wisconsin