

Biology Building
September 23, 1931

Mr. Herbert L. Stoddard
The Hall, Route 1
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Herb:

I am inflicting upon you a paper on technique of raptor food habits study for later publication in The Condor. Will you please go over the manuscript and find as many faults with it as you possibly can, especially as concerns the sections on Field Observation, Stomach Examination, and Interpretation of Kills? Of course, since you are no longer officially connected with my work I may be stretching a point by submitting this to you, but I want you to see it anyway.

I have had an extremely busy year since I last saw you, which has been productive of some rather satisfactory results in some respects, but there are many serious gaps in the data yet to be filled in. I am especially concerned at present in trying to work out some sort of usable technique for the determination of post-nesting and juvenile mortality. I suppose that this has been a stumbling block to you also, since I have noted no elaborate discussion bearing upon this point in your book.

Most of all I would like to be able to answer just what happens to quail from the first of September to the first of December. There seems to be a terrific mortality in here for some reason, part of which may almost certainly be attributed to pot-shooting during the early part of the rabbit season. Unfortunately, the early snows are so evanescent that they give little opportunity for the taking of the initial censuses.

You probably know that Albert Gastrow has moved into Prairie du Sac. I see him quite often, but he has been too tied up of late with his work to run around with me to any extent. Ed Ochsner has not returned yet from his big game hunt somewhere in the West.

I wish to thank you in advance for your consideration of my manuscript. I hope you will not regard it as being a total loss.

Yours sincerely,

Paul L. Errington
In Charge, Quail Investigation