

Biology Building  
March 11, 1932

Mr. Lawrence E. Hicks  
Department of Botany  
Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Mr. Hicks:

I wish to thank you for sending me a copy of your series of papers on Ohio game and song birds in winter. In general, your conclusions check very nicely with my own. There are, however, a couple points concerning which I would like to ask you.

On page 41 relative to your evaluation of bobwhite winter food, you refer to soy beans as being poor food and timothy, red clover, sweet clover, etc., as being good food. I wonder if by any chance there could be a typographical error here, for I found exactly the reverse to be the case. Or were you really able to find out something relative to these items which I have missed? Soy beans, in particular, have been an extremely important staple in the wintering of some of my observational coveys.

I also wish to ask about the evidence you have that skunks killed adult pheasants. This is mentioned on page 30. Skunks are such slow and clumsy mammals that they certainly should find themselves greatly at a disadvantage in attempting to kill a bird as efficient in taking care of itself as the pheasant, unless, of course, they happened to corner the latter someplace. I would appreciate hearing a little more in detail what you have on this subject, for such occurrences, to my way of thinking, should be of exceptional interest. Of course, skunks will scavenge or eat almost any suitable animal matter that they are able to procure; the question is not whether they would eat pheasants if they got a chance, but rather how they would be able to make a capture.

I was very pleased to note that your bulletin had been written from the standpoint of wild life in general instead of merely game alone. I think it of increasing importance that public educational material should emphasize management of wild species for aesthetic purposes, not only as game to hunt.

All in all, I consider your bulletin timely and valuable for its discussion of certain fundamental truths with which the public should become familiar. I hope you will continue to keep me on your mailing list.

Yours sincerely,

Paul L. Errington