

October 21, 1932

Mr. Gardiner Bump,
Superintendent of Game,
New York Conservation Dept.,
Albany, New York.

Dear Mr. Bump:

Would you mind returning to me my thesis as soon as you are through with it for it is the only copy I possess and occasionally I need it for reference.

I have read with interest your publication on the ruffed grouse, particularly that part dealing with predators. One of the most difficult problems I am faced with is the determination of the role of carrion in the diets of various flesh eaters. Particularly do I find this a problem in the study of food habits of foxes.

Have you done any experimental work with wild foxes which would throw light upon the manner in which they handle fresh prey which they have killed themselves and that which they eat when cold and stiff? Have you any other information of this general type which might be of utility to me? Foxes, as you know, have a propensity for eating parts of all sorts of animal matter which they may encounter in the field; just how the items representing their kills may be separated from the items representing dead material is at present, I think, one of the greatest enigmas standing between us and the sound evaluation of the economic status of the species.

I would appreciate having you send me any data bearing upon this point that you may have.

Very truly yours,

Paul L. Errington,
Research Assistant Professor,
Wild Game Studies.

PLE/IM