

May 4, 1933

Mr. Watson Hall,
Athens, Illinois

Dear Mr. Hall:

Thanks for your letter of April 26. I find it quite interesting that your observer found the times of visit of the old owl to the young to be two and four a. m. I have often wondered precisely what time the young birds were usually fed. I only regret that this man didn't continue to take observations instead of killing the owl.

My experience as to the relative ease of raising hawks and owls does not agree with his, however. I have done experimental work with considerable numbers of birds of prey of most midwest species, and never noted yet any hawks, of whatever advancement, that would die before they would eat. There is a great deal of temperamental variation in hawks nevertheless; I found that wild grown juveniles red-tails will reconcile themselves to whatever they had to and would not show any particular terror or hostility toward their captor, provided no liberties were taken with them; on the other hand one could never predict just what the high-strung accipiters, such as the Cooper's Hawk would do. Some individuals make the best of what they have and others remain nervous and untameable even though raised from very young stages. Hawks generally would learn new things much more readily than owls.

I don't know what of my recent reprints you have received, but I am sending you a few that might be new to you.

Very truly yours,

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