

May 31, 1933

Mr. Franklin J. W. Schmidt,
Stanley, Wisconsin

Dear Frank:

We submitted your claim for the recent Iowa trip on the payroll and you will probably get a check in due time.

I was very pleased to note that you are planning to prepare a set of Wisconsin mammal skeletons and skins for us in addition to those you expect to make up for your own use. In case you have a chance, I would appreciate it if you could obtain for us a specimen or two of snowshoe hares, and flying squirrels. We have particular need of skeletons for use in our analyses of horned owl pellets collected from such places as northern Minnesota.

It would be a very good idea, too, if you could get some horned owl pellets from ruffed grouse areas this summer, as you suggested in your letter. I have an idea, however, that such would be very difficult to do at this season if you haven't any young owl tethered out to be attended by the old ones. Both young and old, if unconfined, are apt to display rather nomadic tendencies at this season and I rather doubt if they would show preference for any particular roost trees, under which pellets might be found. You might possibly locate some winter or spring roosting territories but the pellets would be apt to be rather largely disintegrated by this time. In case you do run across any old horned owl pellets deposits (you may often recognize these by the presence of broken heavy bones) you might gather up all the material you can find in bulk without making any particular effort to keep the individual pellets separate. Of course, if the pellets are relatively fresh and apparently complete, each should be wrapped up separately.

I trust that you will not be leaving for Guatemala for some months, so the chances are I shall see you sometime before your departure. At any rate whether you carry on this horned owl or any other work in cooperation with me, I want to keep in touch with you.

Very truly yours,

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