

Copies to: Mr. Wallace  
Fellows

*Erington*

April 28, 1931

Mr. W. B. Grange  
U. S. Biological Survey  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Wallace:

Frank N. Wallace, state entomologist of Indiana, told me at the Izaak Walton League convention that he had found that rose chafers are poisonous to pheasants. He is intending some experiments to determine how many of these insects are a lethal dose.

It occurred to me that the Division of Food Habits Research would like to keep in touch with Mr. Wallace's work, and I know that he would also appreciate any accumulated evidence that you have on the question of poisonous insects. This is a new thought to me, and if you send Mr. Wallace any information I wish you would send me a copy of it for possible use in my game management text.

It occurs to me that native gallinaceous species would through evolutionary processes probably have "learned" to avoid poisonous insects, and that the death of exotics like pheasants may be due to their encountering an insect with which they have had no previous "experience." I would like very much to get in touch with any new theories and facts which you and Dr. McAtee have on this subject.

Since poisoning by insects would, if substantiated, be a new decimating factor which ought to be looked for in other species, I am sending copies of this letter to the fellows.

Yours sincerely,

ALDO LEOPOLD  
In Charge, Game Survey

P.S. Is there anything known about the effect of gallinaceous birds on the corn borer?

A. L.