

421 Chemistry Bldg.  
Madison, Wisconsin  
August 6, 1930

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Biological Survey  
Washington, D. C.

Attention, Food Habits Research Division

Gentlemen:

I am sending by parcel post, as per suggestion of Mr. H. L. Stoddard of your division, a quantity of raptor material for identification.

This material includes 370 marshhawk pellets (all packed in the upper half of the shipping box), 25 sparrowhawk pellets, 22 barred owl pellets, 23 redtail nest pellets, 10 Cooper's hawk nest pellets, and 10 gullet contents squeezed up through mouth of a Cooper's hawk nestling. Stomachs of a weasel, a grey fox, a bluejay, a migrant shrike, 2 crows, 2 horned owls, a redtail, an American Roughleg, and 4 marsh hawks are also being submitted. The material mentioned in this paragraph is available for your files, as localities and dates (so far as known) are given on the attached list of specimens.

In addition to the above, I am asking you to analyze some miscellaneous pellets, etc., for my own personal raptor records. I have on hand large amounts of owl pellets, for example, which I worked over myself in order to avoid imposing too much of a burden on the Biological Survey. The unidentified material which I am sending in (except the dated marshhawk pellets, etc., for your files) represents that which has caused me trouble in my own studies and which I need to complete my data. This procedure is in agreement with advice received from Mr. Stoddard.

In case you want my whole collection of owl pellets, or perhaps several hundreds of horned owl pellets, you are welcome to them. Moreover, I have a considerable number of duck hawk pellets, bones of duck hawk prey, as well as crop and gizzard contents of some 40-odd quail, all of which you can have if you can find the time to run them through with fair promptness. You might discuss this matter with Mr. Stoddard, if he is yet in Washington, for he is rather familiar with what I have at hand.

Last winter I obtained the stomachs of 74 foxes, the contents of which (with the exception of what I am sending) I analyzed myself. This coming winter I expect to acquire even more fox stomachs, which I would be glad to send you direct, should you be in a position to take care of them. I would appreciate any suggestions you wish to make in connection



with my predator-raptor work.

Yours respectfully,

Paul L. Errington  
Industrial Fellow in Conservation  
University of Wisconsin

CAUTION:

Do not wet the glassine bags, as the numbers were written with ordinary ink. The numbers on the regular U.S.B.S. labels were written in lead pencil, ordinary ink, and carbon ink (all three on the same label).