

New Soils Building
March 11, 1935

Prof. W. C. Allee
Department of Zoology
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Professor Allee:

I have just encountered and read with intense interest your "Recent Studies in Mass Physiology," reprinted from Biological Reviews, Vol. IX, No. 1, January 1934. I had read your "Animal Life and Social Growth," but naturally this more critical and detailed discussion was even more interesting. I am very anxious to get a copy. Do you have one or are the copies handled by the Cambridge Press? I take it that it is a regular reprint and hence am addressing you. Naturally I am glad to pay any charges.

As you may be aware from your discussions with Errington, we are encountering some very puzzling aggregation phenomena in game birds and your mass physiology paper is the only thing I have read outside of Elton which gave me any light on possible leads to work on. I now again have a man working on quail (Arthur S. Hawkins, a former student of Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell) and would like to undertake some further work on these questions which puzzle us, provided a convincing lead can be developed. I would like to call on you sometime to get your advice on these questions.

One of the main difficulties is that the phenomena which you describe all pertain to the original aggregation, whereas most of our data pertain to its behavior and survival. In the game field we have little or nothing on how the original aggregation comes about, and are cut off from controlled experimentation because we cannot get natural aggregations under wire. These obstacles, however, may not be altogether unsurmountable.

I take it for granted that Elton has seen your mass physiology paper, but on the bare chance that he may have missed it I am taking the liberty of sending him a copy of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Aldo Leopold
In Charge, Game Research

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