

Copy to Dr. P. L. Errington

1532 University Ave.
July 3, 1937

Mr. Richard H. Pough
National Association of Audubon Societies
1775 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dick:

I have no criticism of "Common Sense and the Hawks" except that on page 5 you imply that the "automatic adjustment of predation" applies to all species, whereas we cannot as yet claim that it extends beyond bobwhite in the north central states. Since it is the only knowledge of like character we have, it should certainly be used, but the uses should be safe-guarded by some qualifying statement as to extent.

Another very small criticism: It seems to me your use of the word "fortuitous" is not quite accurate.

Now for a larger view: The more I think of your food chain idea and your analogy of the cog in the engine, the more I am convinced that it deserves complete, unhurried expression, entirely divorced from Mr. Lewis or any other petty individual. I urge you to give it such expression. I would be glad, of course, to have it incorporated in the statement on predation which John Baker wants our group to write, but I don't think that is enough. It is a subject all by itself, and I would be pleased to have you use me if you want to in developing it, although you have at your elbow the best literary critic I have so far encountered, namely Bill Vogt.

I return the article.

Yours sincerely,

Aldo Leopold
Professor of Game Management

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