

1532 University Avenue  
April 13, 1938

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

Dear Dick:

I am glad to hear from you about the Michigan fish predator project. I think you need have no worries about either Lagler, Hubbs or the Technical Committee attempting to rate any species on the basis of stomachs from hatcheries. I am worrying myself, however, about whether the selection of subject matter for the investigation is being made with the same skill which characterized the corresponding studies by Errington on bird predators. I made some suggestions along this line at the Baltimore meeting, but I have now definitely broached a Michigan advisory committee, which I think is a much better way to insure the proper guidance (see letter attached).

I welcome your criticism and hope you will continue to keep a watchful eye on the project. I knew when we started it that it contained more risks than most projects, but by the same token it can be made more worth while. I think I told you at Baltimore how I was trying to arrange for the inclusion of census work which would show the effects of control on predator populations as well as on fish populations. I also urged strongly the adoption of the Errington idea of permanent census areas. Looking back I sometimes wonder how we blundered on such a good track in the Errington studies. I think the credit is largely due to him.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Aldo Leopold  
Professor of Game Management

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