

Copy to Dr. Errington

424 University Farm Place  
June 15, 1938

Mr. John H. Baker  
National Association of Audubon Societies  
1775 Broadway  
New York, N. Y.

Dear John:

I doubt whether Errington or anyone else can write a project for an area he hasn't seen. Seems to me the first move is to let him see the place.

As to the cropping idea, the parallels you mention seem to me invalid. There is no reason to crop Egret plumes because their range is in a thrifty condition without any cropping. On the other hand, Rainey is alleged to be out of joint by reason of lack of cropping.

In general, I doubt the soundness of the idea of sending anyone to Rainey to carry out a predetermined project. I doubt if anyone knows how to predetermine it. Seems to me the idea is to send a good man down there with an open mind and permission to experiment.

Perhaps I have the wrong slant. I know very little about it except that the rumors of something ecological are persistent. That's enough justification for experimentation to find out.

Yours sincerely,

vh

Aldo Leopold  
Professor of Game Management