

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
MADISON, WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
Division of Wildlife Management

424 University Farm Place
November 2, 1939

Messrs. Gustav Swanson, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota
H. D. Ruhl, Conservation Department, Lansing, Michigan
T. H. Frison, Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois
✓ Paul L. Errington, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa

Gentlemen:

By June of 1940 Frederick and Frances Hamerstrom will have built, on the foundations laid by Franklin Schmidt, the beginnings of some real information about pinnated and sharptail grouse in Wisconsin.

There is no prospect of financial support for work in Wisconsin beyond that time.

Most of you have work of your own in these two species.

Why not pool our resources and our data, and during the next few years get out jointly a regional monograph on the ecology and management of the prairie chicken? This of course need not prevent your independent preparation of local materials and program.

Perhaps you would be interested in taking on the Hamerstoms for a temporary period, after June 1940, under Pittman-Robertson or other funds, for the purpose of tying our information and yours together, and applying the combined data in your state.

My object in making this proposal is to prolong the time and expand the scope of the prairie chicken work. Chickens are difficult to study, and the data obtainable in a single doctorate period are only a start.

The Biological Survey looks with favor on these interstate research pools, and I think would be inclined to bend Pittman-Robertson in aid of such a joint effort. The Survey is itself proposing a pooling of funds and personnel to study cycles. I am here proposing not a pooling of funds, but only a loan of personnel for the purpose of tying our respective contributions together and perhaps plugging some gaps in the combined mass of data.

If this thought interests you, shall we thresh it out at the St. Paul meeting December 1-2?

Yours sincerely,

Aldo Leopold

Aldo Leopold
Professor of Wildlife Management