

424 University Farm Place
January 29, 1941

Mr. Douglas Wade
c/o Zoology Department
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

Dear Doug:

Paul Errington and I are working up a summary paper on the Prairie du Sac census, and I have worked out the "hardness of winters" for the Prairie du Sac census period, which is 1929 to the present.

I would also present the drouth intensity index for this period and have computed intensities from 1936 to the present in accordance with your triangle method, p. 559 of your paper.

I find, however, that your indices cover April to September inclusive, and the inclusion of September seems to me to give rather a false value for comparison with reproductive gains during the breeding season. Thus, the summer of 1940, by reason of a September drouth, shows up as drier than the mean, whereas the actual breeding season was certainly wetter than the mean.

For these reasons I would like to compute a new scale omitting September, but I cannot find your original computations for the period 1929-1935 inclusive. Do you by any chance have them in your files? If so, may I borrow them? It would save me a great deal of additional work if I could chop off September without replotted all the data.

With personal regards, and hoping to see you at Memphis,

Yours sincerely,

Aldo Leopold
Professor of Wildlife Management