

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

424 University Farm Place  
October 12, 1942

Mr. Paul Errington  
Iowa State College  
Ames, Iowa

Dear Paul:

Your pheasant chapter for the Ohio MS. seems to me about as good a job as could be done under the specifications set by the Fish and Wildlife Service. I particularly like your survey of the "what is pheasant range" problem.

I am moved to philosophic reflection, though, by the peculiar limits set by the Fish and Wildlife Service for the pheasant "monograph". Since Hammy and you put out your pheasant nesting study, the Fish and Wildlife Service's pheasant research in Wisconsin (Buss et al) has been much more productive than its corresponding efforts in Iowa. Yet the Wisconsin work is disregarded in this effort to "sum up" the pheasant research to date, despite the fact that it fills many a gap in the picture presented by the Iowa data.

I presume one reason is that Wisconsin is not a "Unit", but Iowa is. Another reason may be that the Wisconsin findings are published only in the Pittman-Robertson mimeographs, whereas Iowa has published currently in Journals. These "reasons" are curiously like those which explain the lack of Army-Navy coordination in the early Pacific battles. There is only one war, and there is only one pheasant, but the attacks on each are many-headed.

As "The Professor" for Irv Buss I am glad his findings seem slated to retain their separate identity, and that they are not to be absorbed in (or skimmed-off for) the pheasant monograph. But as chairman of the Institute Technical Committee I am disturbed by the wholly artificial distinction between Pittman-Robertson and Unit research.

This is not a "gripe" against anybody or anything; just a reminder to whoever is interested that the organization of wildlife research still presents many unsolved problems.

I am sending a copy to Leo Couch, and circulating another to the Technical Committee.

Yours as ever,

Aldo

Aldo Leopold

P.S. MS. returned herewith.

cc Couch      Hubbs  
Stoddard      Needham  
Bump      Buss