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PLACES MADE ATTRACTIVE  
TO FINS, FURS, FEATHERS AND FOLKS  
SINCE 1908

OSHKOSH, WIS.

August 10 1944.

copy  
Prof. Aldo Leopold,  
College of Agriculture,  
Madison, Wis.

Dear Aldo:-

I want to thank you for your letter of May 29th, and the information given thereon on Muskrat cycles, etc. I am not very prompt in answering this letter, as I have been out of the state, and have had to do a great deal of my own work this season, owing to a shortage of labor.

It is interesting to know that your analysis of Chas. Elton's report on the Muskrats in Canada indicates that on the 10-year cycle, there should be a high on Muskrats in the early '40's, and a decline in the middle 40's. I have not taken the time to fully analyze all my figures, but may do so one of these days. However, information that I have readily available, indicated by our records to the Conservation Department, show a catch of 3,039 Muskrats for the year ending Dec. 31, 1940. For that year we also had a catch of 2 mink, 2 weasels, and 1 skunk on the property. For the season of 1942-43 this had declined to a catch of 2,263 Muskrats, 4 mink, 6 weasels and no skunks. The season of 1943-44, shows a catch of 1,971 Muskrats, 8 mink, 5 weasels and no skunks. Examination of the Muskrat marsh made last Sunday, would indicate to me that we can expect a great deal lower catch of Muskrats this coming fall. I would not be surprised if we caught only half as many as last season.

As the mink is a notorious enemy of Muskrats, I am wondering if the increase in the mink may not be in some way connected and responsible for the decrease in Muskrats.

I would be glad to hear further, and to receive anything further that you may pick up or come across on the matter of Muskrat cycles.

Cordially,

Clyde B. Terrell

CBT: Kay

Where can we get a copy of the Journal of Animal Ecology for May 1942, referred to in your letter?



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