

December 19, 1944

Mr. Leonard Wing  
Dept. of Wildlife Management  
Washington State College  
Pullman, Washington

Dear Leonard:

The birkhahn referred to in the records I gave you is the smaller of the two black grouse, Lyurus tetrix tetrix (L.). What I said about the analogy between auerhahn and sage grouse referred to rarity and specialization rather than to taxonomy. You are doubtless right that the blue grouse is a closer relative.

The alternation of abundance by two-year periods interests me very much. I would almost bet on it that this is the expression of "inversity", on which Errington will publish very shortly. It is based on the Prairie du Sac data, and will come out in Ecological Monograph.

With best regards,

Aldo Leopold

cc Errington

x ie reproductive gain is inverse to breeding density.  
This, it seems to me, might well result in alternating  
high and low years.