

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

December 7, 1945

424 UNIVERSITY FARM PLACE
MADISON 5, WISCONSIN

Dr. Paul Errington
Department of Zoology and Entomology
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa

Dear Paul:

I asked Margaret Nice recently about both moults and breeding age of horned owl and she promptly referred me to the German literature which, as you say, is an excellent analogy. The question I was getting at is whether the territorial behavior continues through the moulting months. There seems to be some evidence both pro and con.

Yes, I think one is almost forced to think of the present low at Prairie du Sac as "cyclic". The whole curve continues to parallel the grouse cycle which certainly are at low this year.

I am much pleased to see you mentally relating muskrats and bobwhites. ^{effort,} This I feel, is sound. I hope for an early chance to elaborate your "base level" idea.

^{hear you} The Conservation Department here is in great need of one or more muskrat men and one of my new students may attempt to develop in this field. If I can find a good man I would like at some period in his graduate work to send him over to you to trail along on field trips or listen in on discussions. ^A We are trying stencilling as a method of banding. I would like to talk this over with you at the next opportunity.

With personal best wishes,

Aldo

Aldo Leopold