


THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

COLLEGE OF  AGRICULTURE ♦ MADISON

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

February 14, 1947

424 UNIVERSITY FARM PLACE

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

Dear Paul:

I share your feeling that people exaggerate the degree of difference in our views about Prairie du Sac. People forget the agreements and remember the disagreements.

I also concur that some of the differences are tentative, and some may soon prove to be non-existent. "Phases" are a case in point.

Our own relations in these matters have not, however, caused me any worry. What has caused me worry is the impression, which I find in some other states, that you have "sifted" their local writings, and used only the parts supporting your contentions. No matter how untrue this may be, these people believe it. Part of this is doubtless "sour grapes", part arises from the erroneous belief that you do nothing but write. Whatever the origin, it is important to the profession (and incidentally to you and me personally) that the impression be dispelled to the greatest extent possible. If you can stand the strain, I would suggest you plan a "swing around" the U.S. to thresh these things out. Your boss (whoever now is) could well afford the cost as an investment in prestige, and incidentally it would give you a look at the almost incredible differences between our region and other regions. (I say this with a mental picture of southern Texas, where Lehmann showed me 15 coveys in an hour without getting out of the car).

This is really important, Paul, and you are free to quote me as saying so to whoever you like.

I naturally take great satisfaction in what you say about Cyril.

Thanks for the Matheson reprint, which is certainly good! I return it herewith.

Yours ever,

Aldo

Aldo Leopold

P.S. Needless to say, if you undertake a "swing around", it will be judicious for you to do a lot of attentive listening as well as a lot of exposition. These fellows are not all good on formulating general theories, but they do have a lot of data, most of it conscientiously gathered, and that entitles them to a respectful hearing.

Confidential
In making the above suggestion, I am of course "nosing in" on what is none of my business except in the capacity of a personal friend. I think my suggestion is a practical one, for it has worked with Cyril. He still doesn't agree with you in full, but the remaining disagreement is friendly. Also you got something from him.