

Feb. 24, 1932

Dr. Carl J. Drake  
Iowa State College  
Ames, Iowa

Dear Dr. Drake:

You asked me to send you a brief summary of the conversation which Bode and I had with you and Dr. Becker concerning the probable program of work which Mr. Errington would undertake.

It is, of course, understood that the actual program should be mapped out by Errington himself after he has become familiar with the conditions in the state and its research needs. The following therefore represents merely the best forecast which you and Mr. Bode and I are able to make at this time.

30 per cent

Advisory Service to Demonstration Areas. Each area is to consist of a block of farms where the farmers have organized for the purpose of trying out game management. Errington should be their technical adviser, should visit each area at least once a year and line up a program of food development, cover development, predator control and hunting control appropriate to its particular needs. He will be asked many questions to which no answer is known and on which he will have to conduct research. The demonstration areas will of course offer valuable opportunities to do research on specific questions under more or less controlled conditions without expense to the college.

10 per cent

Consultation on Predator Policy. All game management work of course involves the determination of policies of predator control, and there will often be occasion to refer to Errington for advice on specific administrative questions in specific localities. For instance, there are many counties which are now complaining of an



undue abundance of foxes and of damage to game. The determination of just how abundant foxes are in such areas and what damage, if any, is taking place, is a highly technical matter for which Errington is especially trained.

20 per cent

Advisory Service to the Lake Restoration Program.

The report of the game survey will include plans, specifications and cost estimates for the restoration of 50 to 75 lakes and marshes throughout the state. In each case, in addition to fishing, shooting, and refuge values, it is hoped to develop these lakes for waterfowl breeding purposes. The specific environmental requirements of each species of waterfowl for breeding range are but dimly known and most of the available information is generalized for the whole country. Errington will have to make a study of waterfowl breeding requirements in Iowa in order to advise the Commission as to what lakes are the best for breeding, what species will breed in them, what shore lines should be acquired for breeding purposes, and how such shore properties should be developed.

10 per cent

Agricultural Damage Questions. The building up of game populations through management involves the question of possible damage to crops, especially in the case of pheasants. Some sketchy studies of pheasant food habits have been made in some of the adjoining states. A much more thorough investigation is needed for Iowa and this is naturally a function of the new game research personnel. It should go much deeper than the mere examination of a number of crops. Food habits vary according to environmental conditions and also the density of the game population. Methods of averting damage have usually not been studied, although they are more important even than ascertaining the facts of damage. The Michigan Agricultural College is starting a thorough study of this subject and you will doubtless wish to cooperate with them.



10 per cent

Sanctuary Management. The game survey will recommend the establishment of a number of permanent sanctuaries for non-shootable game such as prairie chickens and ruffed grouse. The mere establishment of these sanctuaries, however, will not insure their success. A careful study of the environmental requirements of these species in each sanctuary should be made and the environment improved according to the findings. This item will include opportunities for some pioneer scientific work, as well as opportunities for perpetuating these rare species.

20 per cent

Miscellaneous.

100 per cent

The foregoing estimates proceed on the assumption that the combined time of Errington and his assistant will equal 100 per cent. How the work should be split up between them is a matter which cannot be determined until the entire personnel is known.

I would like to repeat my suggestion that no commitments as to an assistant be made without giving Errington an opportunity to pass on his fitness. I know from experience that the selection of a man qualified for game research is no light matter.

As I pointed out to you, there are promising opportunities for a very great expansion in your game research program as soon as economic conditions become normal. The foregoing estimates are, however, based on the present personnel and finances.

Yours sincerely,

ALDO LEOPOLD  
In Charge, Game Survey

Signed in Mr. Leopold's absence.  
V.H.