

Aug. 26, 1932

Mr. Seth Gordon, President  
American Game Association  
Investment Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Seth:

The research work on Wisconsin prairie chickens and sharptails on which Dr. Gross made a progress report in 1930 has been going forward since that time in charge of his former apprentice, Franklin J. Schmidt. Excellent progress has been made.

During the coming year Schmidt wants to return to school to work for his degree. I have been urging Wisconsin to make it possible for him to take his degree in chickens, thus automatically continuing the work at very slight expense, but as nearly as I can learn the work is now to be dropped upon the completion of a report this winter, just at the time when enough results have accumulated to warrant actual application in management. A proposal to try out these findings by cropping chickens on a sample area of reverted lands in Wisconsin has met with no response.

I learn upon inquiry that Schmidt is willing to work on chickens for a fellowship stipend of \$500 per year plus travel expenses, provided he can attach himself to some competent university for his degree. If we estimate travel at \$600-\$1000, this makes his services available for less than half of what research projects cost a few years ago.

I am personally interested in preventing this venture from lapsing. It is the first serious attempt at prairie chicken conservation ever made in the United States, and it reflects scant credit on the conservation movement that this trained man should have to drop this project, and resume his study of snakes or field mice, in order to get a degree.

The following states probably have the requisite combination of chickens and a competent university: Iowa, the Dakotas, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Texas.

I am sending copies of this letter to personal friends in Iowa, Minnesota and Texas, and would suggest your providing your field force with copies so that they can follow up any opportunities to interest the universities or game departments in the states mentioned.

I am also sending copies to the members of the Wild Life Committee of the National Research Council, although that organization has as yet

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no funds for this sort of work. A copy is being sent to Dr. Gross for his information.

Schmidt will be available by next spring.

Yours sincerely,

ALDO LEOPOLD

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