

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
MADISON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

New Soils Building
September 21, 1934

Dr. Paul L. Errington
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa

Dear Paul:

I have read the fox paper and I am much impressed, first of all, of course, by the sheer volume of the excellent data, and second, because I think it is a good presentation. My suggestions are few and of an unimportant nature.

First of all, I would like to see you arrange the data with a separate line for each item instead of running all the items together. The need for this is the greater because of the parenthetical explanations that occur in some of them. I know that this will lengthen the text, but the length is probably so great already that the editor will suggest splitting it into two sections, the reprint, of course, to include both.

I have marked a few passages where the clarity did not seem to me to be good. Some lines are omitted at the bottom of page 8. At the top of page 20 I think your comparison of native and exotic vulnerability might be strengthened by adding the words "and inhabiting the same range."

Assuming that the paper must be split into two parts, and hence that you are not absolutely impelled to cut down length, I would suggest adding at least a paragraph giving the reader some idea of the fox densities, game-prey densities, and fox-prey ratios prevailing on the territories studied. I have the feeling that the paper, though excellent, is too similar to the past productions of the Biological Survey in seeming to ignore the effect of comparative abundance with the consequent variations in availability. Possibly you yourself have not thought out these effects, and possibly some additional deductions could be arrived at by so doing. There must be a radical difference between the fox-quail ratio in Sauk County and the fox-pheasant ratio in parts of northern Iowa.

Emlen has been unable to find the Hamilton fox article, but is writing Hamilton for it. Possibly Hamilton is going to put out a paper on foxes rather than has put one out. In such event you and he might want to exchange notes or criticism of MSS. Emlen tells me he is an excellent man.

In the Journal of Mammalogy, August 1934, p. 243, is a review of a Russian paper on food habits of foxes by feces analysis. While in

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Russian, the paper has a summary in English. Maybe it would pay you to look this up.

I am sending this, with the MSS. to Ames, since you did not leave directions as to whether you would be in Ames or Ruthven.

Yours sincerely,

Aldo

Aldo Leopold
In Charge, Game Research

AL-vh
Encl.