

Copy to Paul L. Errington

1532 University Avenue  
March 9, 1938

Dr. W. L. McAtee  
U. S. Biological Survey  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mac:

Do you think it would be a good plan to run in the Journal as they become available census abstracts of which the attached blueprint may serve as a sample? The abstracts should of course have the O.K. of the person responsible for the census.

My idea in making this proposal arises from my own difficulty in deriving complete and correct census and density figures from ordinary publications. In the case of the Prairie du Sac area, one could get part of the record from Errington and Hamerstrom's bulletin, but a complete record would not be available even from so well publicized an area.

In other cases important censuses are entirely unrecorded, for example, King's ruffed grouse census in Minnesota. If an abstract system such as this one had been available he would doubtless have reported his census long ago.

Not all abstracts would have to deal with the census of a single area through a number of years. At the present moment the large number of papers dealing with deer censuses might call for abstracts each giving representative densities in a state or region.

I need such a system for teaching purposes and shall probably go ahead with it on at least a small scale in any event. Should you, however, be favorably inclined toward a systematic treatment in the Journal, I would be glad to contribute my abstracts to such a system.

The number of areas currently being censused is, I think, growing rather large. Each important game management center, including the nine units, is probably developing from one to half a dozen areas.

My thought was that the Journal could keep a stock of separates and dispose of them for teaching or other purposes at cost price.

Yours sincerely,

Aldo Leopold  
Professor of Game Management

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Census Abstract #1

Species: Bobwhite Quail (Colinus virginiana)

Area: Prairie du Sac Game Area, Sauk County, Wisconsin  
3,200 acres (discontinuous groups of covey ranges)  
All in farms, sandy soil. Type map in Errington & Hamerstrom, p. 395  
(see publications)

Made by: Paul L. Errington, 1929-1932, Albert Gastrow 1933-1938.

Auspices: University of Wisconsin and Iowa State College, cooperating.

Method: Weekly covey counts and track counts, December to April of each year.

Management: None. Area deliberately left unfed and unimproved as a check against managed areas. Quail legally protected except during 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935. Few or none killed on this area.

Circumstances: Killing winters in 1927-28, 1935-36. Grouse and rabbit cycle usually considered at peak in 1934, at trough in 1927 and 1937.

Accuracy Rating: Class A.

Publications: Many papers by Errington summarized in the following:

Errington, Paul L. and F. N. Hamerstrom, Jr. "The Northern Bobwhite's Winter Territory," Iowa State College Research Bulletin 201, Ames, 1936.

