

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
MADISON, WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

424 UNIVERSITY FARM PLACE

March 17, 1943

Professor Paul L. Errington
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa

Dear Paul:

Cyril Kabat is just in after another spell of quail trapping with Albert, and their joint report is of considerable interest in connection with the manuscript.

Apparently there are about 70 birds left alive, which makes the total loss this winter equivalent to 1936, and probably entitles it to be classified as one of the three hard winters.

More interesting still is the fact that the reduction to 70 occurred early in February, and there have been no material losses since, despite several blizzards. This would indicate that the present threshold is somewhere between 70 and 125, and checks the deduction in the manuscript that the threshold had not yet been reached when we continued to lose birds through predation in March of last year.

Cyril says a preliminary check of covey survivals shows that some of your territories still retain their usual capacity, and the decline in threshold is localized to the remainder.

Our total bandings to date stand at about 46. This is a small number but a high per cent. The 46 includes only five old birds, as aged by both bursa and coverts. This low per cent of old birds makes me wonder whether inversity may not be due to non-survival of both young and old rather than young alone. Of course, it's too early to tell.

Cyril and Albert hope to get some further bandings between now and April 1. Cyril will write a report which, together with Albert's usual report, ought to constitute an extra good picture of the winter season.

With best regards,

Aldo

Aldo Leopold

(OVER)

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P.S. Please paste the attached correction on p. 41 of the manuscript in place of the text to the last paragraph.

Professor Paul L. Hirst
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa

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Alfred Leopold

(OVER)

During March 1942, Hanson counted 250 "fairly fresh" squirrel nests in the 600 acres of woodland large enough to harbor squirrels. Some squirrels live in cavities and may build few or no nests. Hanson estimated the winter population to be about 250 squirrels, or 35 per square mile, or one per 2.4 acres of woodland.