

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

6

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

424 UNIVERSITY FARM PLACE  
March 24, 1944

Professor Paul L. Errington  
Department of Zoology and Entomology  
Iowa State College  
Ames, Iowa

Dear Paul:

I'm glad to hear that the paper is coming along.

As to the hiatuses in the report:

Rabbits. Albert says definitely there are fewer than last year, but the flushing rate says that there are about the same. Kabat has the impression of scarcity, but is unable to reconcile this with the tallies. Perhaps the mild winter left more bedded out. There is no doubt that a low prevails in the state: ~~the~~ the Commission has had to put thumbs down on requests for imports.

Red Fox. Albert says hunting and trapping has been just as heavy outside as inside, hence there is no more reason for suspecting influx than the opposite. Of course the usual qualification attaches to the 45 estimate: the population ranges beyond the area.

Quail Seasons: Columbia County was closed both in 1942 and 1943. However, Dane was open 4 days in 1943, and Dane and Sauk 5 days in 1942. There might have been some spillage of quail hunters from these nearby areas, but if there was, Albert knows nothing of it.

Banding. There was none prior to Kabat's 1942-43 work. Incidentally, we've had a hard time banding this winter: only 50 odd birds so far.

Pellets. No work by my group recently, but I possibly gave Rossback some about two years ago. I'll ask him to write you. Albert and Kabat have been unable to find many so far this winter.

I take it for granted that we are of one mind about matters of priority in publication. Since Kabat's report to the Department will doubtless be published, at least in the P.-R. Quarterly, before your paper, you are technically free to cite it, but it has been my view that ecological deductions beyond 1942-43, and banding data including 1942-43, are Kabat's.

Naturally he and I want you to know what the trend is, so that your paper will be, insofar as possible, harmonious with his. For this reason we shall continue to send you the reports, and we will want your slant on his paper when the time comes.

My original understanding with Walter Scott was that the census belonged to the Department; the ecological deductions to you and me. I have now delegated my share of the latter to you. In keeping with the understanding I have provided the Department each year with a summary of the census. This understanding of course

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obliges me to publish something of Kabat's findings annually, and in one sense, prematurely. I think this accident of history should not invalidate Kabat's priority in the data.

As I understand it, all of us are obligated to get the Department's approval of all manuscripts on Prairie du Sac.

Dear Dr. [unclear]

Yours as ever,

*Aldo*

Aldo Leopold