

August 17, 1932

Mr. Gustav Swanson
c/o George Arnold
Penasse, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Swanson:

I don't know whether this letter will reach you or not; there are some things however that I wish you to think over before I can get in closer touch with you.

Briefly, there is a vacancy in the wild life research staff at Iowa State College in which I thought you might be interested, insofar as you have already had previous correspondence with Mr. Aldo Leopold on the subject of a possible position there.

The position to be filled is that of assistant to myself in the wild life research program recently established at the college. The program at present deals largely with the ecology and management under wild conditions of waterfowl and gallinaceous game birds, though it will doubtless be expanded in the course of events to embrace other species of economic, scientific or aesthetic importance. The work is a college project in cooperation with the State Fish and Game Commission.

The specific duties of my assistant, as I now see them, would be to help in inspecting and advising the various pheasant, quail and Hungarian partridge experiment and demonstration management areas which have been organized throughout the state by cooperating agencies. Some work of an extension nature may be necessary with farm groups, etc. There will also be opportunities for personal research on ecological problems - at least, I am sure there will be! I must confess that on account of the newness of the program the exact plans for procedure (except the waterfowl studies which are well started) are yet nebulous; problems will be attacked more or less in the order of their apparent significance and in the order that they arise.

I would prefer as an assistant a graduate student working for his doctorate, but not in such a terrific hurry to get it that he could not spend full time in the field an occasional quarter if such were necessitated. All in all, I believe arrangements could be made at Iowa which would compare reasonably with anything now likely to be available to a self-supporting graduate student anywhere.

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Although I do not recall having met you on previous trips to Minneapolis, the uniformly favorable reports I have of you have convinced me that you are worth looking up. I had a very satisfactory interview with Dr. Christenson yesterday, and he sees no obstacles whatever in the way of your accepting the I. S. G. position, assuming that no unforeseen complications presented themselves. Dr. Minnich said that he hoped I wouldn't get you but that he would not stand in your way in case you wanted to go with me. For myself, while I'm not making any commitments, I can say without reservation that I am interested.

I am now on a trip of indefinite duration and hence not easy to get in touch with. However I hope to return to Ames about the first of September. Could you have a letter awaiting me there so I could learn your preliminary views on a proposition? If you think favorably on the matter I believe that I could drive to Minneapolis and take you to Ames for an interview with the faculty there, particularly Dr. Drake, head of the Department of Zoology and Entomology.

I realize that this is a very late hour to begin negotiations but it can't be helped. I don't know how soon anything could be definitely settled, but in case things are mutually satisfactory to both of us, I'll try my best to get final arrangements rushed through. The college of course has the final word as to salary and appointments and, in which respect, I have no business saying anything definite.

Yours sincerely,

Paul L. Errington
Assistant Professor Wild Life Research