

27th October 1933.

W.B. Alexander M.A.
University Museum,
Oxford.

Dear Alexander,

I have as yet, done nothing with your bird figures. The position is I had several pieces of work on the stock, on taking over my appointment here, and so far everyone of them have come to a full stop. Obviously, this cannot go on much longer, but I am beginning to think that it was foolish of me to undertake to give even two lectures a week, as the very excellence of the class which is turning up, makes me give far more time than I had hoped would be necessary to thinking about them.

About "Abundance for its Size". All that I had meant was, that my data for variability have had necessarily the absolute dimensions eliminated, and consequently, any tendency if there is one, for the less abundant larger birds to have, say lower variability, will be eliminated from my comparisons. If I find therefor, abundance associated either way with variability, it will be abundance for its size, that will be in question.

I had seen "The Bird Population on an Oxfordshire Farm" when it came out, and for general comparative purposes, I do not see anything wrong with using weight per acre, as Eelton suggested.

Anytime you are in town, and would like to discuss the statistical handling of the quantitative data you are collecting, I should be very glad if you would look in and lunch with me, as the subject interests me greatly.

Yours sincerely,