

5, APSLEY ROAD,
OXFORD.

February 16th 1937.

My dear Sister,

Your kind of you to
have looked at the Cura data. I
am very interested in the matter,
and I am really most grateful
to you for giving up your time to it.

My feeling is that the
order of total population at which
you have arrived (1,000) is quite
what one would expect in the
circumstances. I had, of course, no
idea what it would be, but
considering it in the light of the
size of the island and the ecology

of the species, your estimate seems
wholly reasonable.

I must say I should
have thought a daily elimination of
50% very high. However, from what
you say, this sort of thing is
clearly suggested by the data; and,
after all, I have no definite
grounds for the impression that it
would be much lower.

In regard to your question:
The experiment ended because the
numbers available for catching had
become small. However the immediate
cause of this was bad weather:

You will see from the weather records
in the book of data that it
had become very poor. However I
think I am right in saying that
the numbers had begun to decline
before the onset of really bad weather
during the last day or two.

The coming year, if all
is well, we will so mark the
records that the date of capture and
release can be determined*. That should
raise the value of the data.

I am glad to hear that
you thought the point about selection
in optimum conditions of some

* I shall be going up ^{myself} ~~there~~ this time, I hope.

interest. I heard yesterday that
Julian is back, so I have sent
him the copy of Hutchinson's paper.
I have asked him to return it
direct to you, and to get into
touch with Hutchinson himself.

Yours sincerely,
E. B. Ford