

August 2, 1984

Mr. John Byelich  
P. O. Box 306  
Mio, Michigan 48647

Dear John,

This is perhaps a minor matter, but I thought I should mention it to you while it is on my mind.

In the last meeting of the Recovery Team, we mentioned that John Probst's work indicated that we would get more birds if we planted more stems per acre. I believe this judgment should be reviewed with caution.

For example, we have always believed that the warblers first came into young stands in the densest portions (dog-hair growth), but we were not so sure that these portions of a burn held the most birds after a few years. Therefore, the age of the tract may affect the attractiveness of various portions to warblers. I do not believe Probst addressed this question. If so, we might get more birds initially by planting more stems, but get fewer birds over the life of the habitat.

Some of us remember the Ogemaw tract, which was very productive in the 1950s and 1960s, but which was relatively open, with scattered, spreading trees.

My only point is that we should not regard it a foregone conclusion that doubling our previous estimates of the proper number of stems to be planted per acre will produce more warblers over the life of a stand. We really do not know how much open space the warbler wants in a stand. In dense stands the open spaces are rapidly closed as the trees grow.

Sincerely,