

October 14th 1946.

My dear Ron,

What a lot of work you have done on the 1946 data. I am indeed interested in your splendid analysis. I must say I am surprised that the numbers this year turn out to be no greater. Generally there has been a fairly close correspondence between the impression of abundance or scarcity gained in the field and the calculated results, but one can well imagine that as the numbers increase one's superficial impression of what is happening becomes more inaccurate. Clearly a moderate number can make a fine show.

I don't think one can escape the conclusion you reach that there is some difference in survival rate between the insects I have handled personally (in previous years) and those marked and released by others, as so many here this year. Anyone with practice would do it as well, or better, than I. But as it so happens that I have been constantly dealing with *Lepidoptera* for 34 years, it is possible that experience leads to less damage to specimens —

though I am sure my kind helpers here as careful as they could be.

I am afraid there is no means this year of distinguishing between those individuals which I marked and released myself, and those which were marked by others. Certainly they did the work alone some days and I on others (this information I have, and could send you if you thought it worth while). But I worked with them, both marking and releasing large numbers, on other days; and on these occasions the insects have given no distinguishing sign to show who had marked them. (This of course could have been done, but it is hardly a point which would occur to one in advance as necessary - at any rate it did not occur to me!).

Again my most grateful Thanks for all your interest in the problem.

Yours ever,
Henry