

11 May 1931.

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My dear Jackson,

I think you will find it difficult to estimate the date at which the ratio of marked to unmarked captures just begins to become constant, as the ratio for a single day will be affected by random sampling and every other conceivable kind of disturbance. I do, however, think that the ratio, at any time after you are well away from the disturbance of the initial conditions will be a most important datum for gauging fly population, even if owing to diffusion it cannot be used alone for a direct calculation. Its ^{seasonal} survival variation, too, should be of great value, and I think as soon as it was well established as a routine, you would find it becoming a kind of pivot for every sort of supplementary enquiry.

Thanks for sending me the reprint. I have not read it yet, and I shall look for the second paper you mention. I shall be off for the States in about a fortnight, for

a three months trip, so your next letter may wander
about a bit.

Best of luck,

Yours sincerely,