

St. John's College
Cambridge

Oct 30 (1941)

Dear Fisher,

Review proof herewith.

It is astonishing how slips in copying manage to escape notice.

I have been meaning to ask you a question for some time. The mixed thrush has hitherto been, not exactly rare, but an uncommon bird. But for the last two years it has been common here when the song thrush. Now what I don't understand is why this isn't always happening. The perching birds generally produce 10-15 offspring per year, ~~fully~~ the tits rather more. In their numbers to remain ~~to~~ steady the number of survivors must balance the deaths of adults. But these seem to depend on wholly unrelated circumstances. I could understand it, e.g., if each ~~had~~

species had a limited food supply
edible by no other species, as the
int so. A quite slight difference between
the survivors for one year - between say
80% & 90% - could make the number double
every year. It almost looks as if there was
an agreement among the species to preserve
the status quo, but that some occasion-
ally violate it!

Yours

Harold Jefferys.