

1st December, 1958.

My dear Kenneth,

I am returning herewith Peter O'Donald's paper on the colour phases of the Arctic skua, a job of work which has for some while been awaiting competent statistical examination.

I gather that the critic acting for Evolution realized that a χ^2 test with 14 degrees of freedom would be less sensitive than one in which all the goodness from the same sources could be compressed into fewer degrees of freedom. But he does not suggest any way of doing this, and indeed to use fewer in O'Donald's case would seem to imply omitting some of the contrasts on which he would ~~seem~~^{wish} to rely. Anyway, the expert writing for Evolution does not run the risk of suggesting any way of improving O'Donald's analysis, so I suppose it was only the ordinary pose of superiority commonly adopted by American referees, and which is certainly not directly related to their competence.

I should say it is just about the sort of paper which Hereditas needs to widen its interest and readership.

By all means send me Bodmer's paper if I can be of any help. This is likely to be much more like work!

Sincerely yours,

Enc.

Professor K. Mather, C.B.E., F.R.S.