

November 15, 1944

Batchelor had told me about the hollies at Sandy Hook, describing them much as you did. He had a permit to go over the entire place, but he did not find a tree he considered worth propagating. I think the many male trees are a natural result of too much cutting. I find the same condition here.

I hope I can visit Judge Brown's place sometime, since I am so interested in seeing a place which has been developed by moving and planting our native trees. I am glad the trees were not injured by the hurricane.

The more I see of hurricane damage the more I realize we are at best the pawns of nature and that we can consider ourselves fortunate that such disasters do not occur more often. I am getting a close-up view and it is pretty terrible. One place, where the owners had been planting different kinds of trees for forty years, is practically all swept away.

I am so glad to learn that a holly society has been suggested, for this would be a splendid way to get information on holly before the public. It might be a good idea to call a meeting again this winter and see what the response would be. The main interest would, of course, be in your locality, but I believe there are some people I could interest up this way.

I doubt that there are any specific laws about holly. In this state there are general tree laws but none, so far as I know, about holly. Delaware has some regulations about commercial cutting, but these are more permissive than mandatory. Such laws have been hard to enforce for owners will not complain and often give permits which nullify the laws.

Have you found that birds eat holly berries at this time of year? Starlings and robins eat them in late winter, when there is little else. But I have a tree quite a way from other trees which was stripped last year and again this year, although I have never seen a bird near it.

Wilfred Wheeler
