



8/11/3/1

FORESTRY COMMISSION
EAST (SCOTLAND) CONSERVANCY
6 Queen's Gate, ABERDEEN, AB9 2NQ
Telephone: 33361

Please address any reply to

THE CONSERVATOR

and quote: GEG/SR S26/BNC

17 October 1974

Your reference:

James R MacKay Esq

Dear Mr MacKay

I was very glad of the opportunity of attending the Annual General Meeting of the Bailies of Bennachie on the 16 October. I very much enjoyed your quite excellent slides and talk and am most grateful to you for the kind reference you made to the Forestry Commission. You can continue to rely upon the support and co-operation of the Commission on the safeguarding and improvements of the amenities of Bennachie.

Yours sincerely

Gunnar Godwin

G E GODWIN
Conservator



8/11/74

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Your reference:

8 November 1974

James R MacKay Esq
The Dell
Blairdaff
Inverurie AB5 9LT

Dear Mr MacKay

Thank you for your kind letter of the 4th which I shall pass on to Mr Cuthbert and Mr Aitken.

I wonder whether ptarmigan have really been seen on Bennachie. It would be very surprising indeed. I have heard that there are golden plover there and wonder whether there is any possibility of mistaken identification. Ptarmigan, in my experience, rarely come below about 3 000 ft and virtually never on an isolated lower hilltop. However, we shall follow this up.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Gunnar Godwin

G E Godwin
Conservator



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Your reference:

4 December 1974

James R MacKay Esq
The Dell
Blairdaff
Inverurie AB5 9LT

Dear Mr MacKay

Thank you very much for your most interesting letter of 13 November about the ptarmigan on Bennachie. After my last letter, I mentioned the matter to Mr George Dey and he told me that he had seen what appeared to be an albino grouse on Bennachie which formed part of a small covey. However, the information you now give makes it quite definitely a ptarmigan, or at any rate makes it certain that there is, in fact, one ptarmigan on Bennachie. This astonishes me, but if one was seen above the cliffs in the Nigg Bay/Cove Bay area by Professor Wynne-Edwards, then obviously they do the most surprising things. I am sending a copy of your letter to the District Officer, Mr Cuthbert, and Chief Forester, Mr Aitken, who will be very interested.

Yours sincerely

Gunnar Godwin

G E Godwin
Conservator