April 22nd 1946

Carinbrooke
Porthallow
St. Ives
Helston, Cornwall.

My dear Ron,

What a marvellous analysis of the domicila data you have made. I think this is a wonderful piece of work on your part. You have taken these observations and, entirely by your own topic, extracted from them something of the highest importance in evolutionary theory. For of course the needs of the moment are constantly shifting, and just now it is one of the chief needs to take the theory of "drift" and show that there is or is not something in it. You and I have always felt profoundly sceptical of this "Small freight effect", but I am sure we are very much in a minority. Many people have fastened on it because it seems to give an easy explanation of certain important evolutionary situations. His scanty acceptance is one of the considerable dangers in biological thinking today, and I do feel the happier that my observations on domicila have provided data which you have used to such wonderful effect. I am full of admiration, my dear Ron, as you will know I have often been in the past, as what you have done.

It does seem so valuable that a population level should all must admit is less than the evidence
indicates (1,000 breeding results in each year) is yet large enough to give such clear significance. There can be no doubt at all that this is a considerable underestimate of the numbers, and that gives great force to your argument.

I am keeping the books you sent me, and should like to do so if you have a copy. I would like to receive them should you need them.

I have lately had rather a bad time of it. A severe attack of influenza followed by a relapse when I was much worse than before. As I only just recovered from pneumonia, I was told I must spend several weeks in the south-west if I was to be fit enough for next term. Now I am nearly all right again, though still rather tired, and am returning for the Oxford term on the 26th [may Friday].

It is most good of you to write me to Cambridge. Unfortunately I have classes in the morning and afternoons of the Wednesday throughout the term, so that the 8th (when Maker is with you would not be possible for me).

Hardy is ill, and we shall have to share one his work for at least half, probably the whole, of the term. I wonder if I might come to join you for the night of the 5th, arriving as early as term allows on the Monday, and leaving late on the Tuesday? Alternatively for that of the 14th. I do so much want to talk on dominical, the Goldschmidt silly article (50 pages long) on munition, in which he adva...