

Camp Larney Oregon  
Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 1875.

Mr. William Brewster

Dear Sir.

Last Mail brought me  
a paper "On the Birds of Ritchie  
County, West Virginia with four  
compliments for which please accept  
my thanks. I believe they have  
a fine ornithological collection and  
make ornithology a speciality. I  
sent you by this mail a pair of  
skins of *Leucosticte affrocotis*  
var. *littoralis*, which may perhaps  
still be wanting in your collection.  
If not I have no doubt but what

You can find a willing owner  
for them, as they are still tolerably  
rare. I pick up occasionally some  
very rare birds, but as Zoology is  
my hobby, I give them away to  
my friends, or exchange them for  
eggs, not having room enough and  
proper conveniences to keep them in  
good order. If during your travels  
you come across a rare set of eggs  
you can always find in me a person  
ready to take them, and so far at least,  
I have never had anyone complain  
about my not being liberal enough  
in return. If you will send  
me your list, I can judge better  
to what extent I may be able  
to assist you, it will make no  
difference about your being able  
to make a return in eggs at once.

Yours Truly  
Chas. Bendire  
Capt. U. S. Army

Enclose the labels belonging to the  
skins, the smaller one is the female.

Bardonia, N.Y.  
Sept. 20 - 78

Camp Harney Oregon  
Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 1875.

Mr. W. Brewster  
Dear Sir.

I received your letter of Oct.  
10<sup>th</sup> some time ago & am glad to learn  
that the two skins of *Leucosticte tephrocotis*  
var. *littoralis* reached you in good order &  
were new to your collection. Enclose  
you herewith a list of species of eggs in  
my own cabinet, which will give you an  
idea of what I still want. I am in  
hopes of obtaining a large series of *Leu-*  
*costicte* this winter and have secured  
ten specimens already. They made their  
appearance fully a month and a half  
earlier than last year, but so has the

the Snow. Amongst the specimens I secured this year, shot respectively on the 8<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of the month, I found a true *L. leucocotis* var. *leucocotis* the first which has come under my observation here, and I believe it is the first instance of its actually having been obtained so far west. I obtained another rather interesting one = var. *littoralis*, but the upper portion of the throat is pure white otherwise the plumage is normal.

Mr R. Ridgway says in his monograph on this genus, that in var. *littoralis* the only one of which I have had a chance to examine a number of specimens, that the sexes are exactly alike which is a mistake. At any rate I find differences enough to enable me to select the ♂ from ♀ nearly every time. I tried this today & was correct in every instance. I examine all my specimens invariably to make absolutely certain of it, but believe I could dispense with it in this case most certainly. I have no doubt of obtaining a large number this winter and shall test it further before ventilating my views on the subject. I think his assertion in this case is about as correct as some about his white Ptarmigan. If you want any other skins of var. *littoralis* I think that I can supply you at Libitum — that is for eggs.

Yours truly  
Chas Bendire

Bendin. Chas  
Nov. 13-1875

Camp Harney Oregon  
Jan 3<sup>d</sup> 1876 -

Mr. Wm. Brewster.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of Nov 30<sup>th</sup> has been received some time since. I did not answer it at once, as I wanted to wait till I heard from one of my correspondents in Penn<sup>a</sup> who had written to me that he could probably send me a set of No 70 = *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* which was how the way I wanted it. He has sent me a nice set of four since, and promised me others in the spring. I would take four set also but it is scarcely worth the while to make an-

an exchange for a single set. You say  
you could supply a dozen of my de-  
siderata or more, in loose eggs, but  
these of course I would not wish. Still  
that depends considerably on circumstances.  
One egg is better than none and if there  
are some well known ones amongst them  
I would not object to them as much, as  
you perhaps think. I should particularly  
like to get a few more eggs of the green  
partridge and would not mind if it was  
not a full set and others as well. I can  
give me a list of the species and they  
we can see. I have taken very few  
good skins lately that is as far as species  
is concerned. In numbers I have done  
pretty well. The best in the whole lot  
I suppose pretty rare yet in most  
collections is a fine set of *Ampelis  
garrulus*, of which I have about  
24 fine specimens and amongst them  
a few fully matured birds of both  
sexes. I find notwithstanding the  
accounts in ornithological works to  
the contrary that the white on the  
terminal part of the primaries is  
continued around the inner webs as well  
in the old females as in the males which  
makes the sexes alike. I also find  
that in old birds of both sexes the  
shafts of the tail feathers inside of  
the yellow terminal band are of a  
bright vermilion color, the same as  
the sealing wax appendages on the  
wing feathers and it would not sur-  
prise me a bit if still older birds had  
these same appendages on the tail  
feathers likewise as has been some-  
times found to be the case in *A.  
cedrorum*. The yellow varies in  
my specimens from  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch  
wide. They have always been found by  
me in small parties from 6 to 15 and  
very often only singly or in pairs.  
They feed exclusively on the wild  
rose berries just now.

Yours Truly Ch. Audre



Bending, Cha?

Jan. 5-1876

Camp Harney Oregon  
Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 1876

Mr. William Brewster.

Dr. Sir.

Your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> ult and  
your list have come to hand. I'm carefully  
looking over the latter & find amongst  
your duplicates but a single species which  
I have not got already, viz *Dendroica ma-  
culosa* (Pais) No 204, and but two others  
of which I have not as good sets as I should  
wish Nos 349 to 522. It would scarcely  
be of any use to make such a small exchange  
at present, but if you have a full set of  
204 to spare I should like to get it at  
some time or another. The warblers have  
left since the middle of last month at least  
I have not seen or heard of a single one

Since then, Prof. Baird writes me under  
date of Jan 20<sup>th</sup> respecting the warbling as  
follows. The variations to which you refer  
in the plumage of the Warbling, have already  
attracted the attention of Naturalists. I have  
myself seen specimens with the wax on the  
tail feathers, as with the common Cedarbird.  
This is all he says. From it I infer that  
he has been previously cognizant of the similarity  
of the markings on the primaries of the  
female to that of the male. I have sent a  
short account of my observations to the  
Forest & Stream for publication some two  
weeks ago, and in order to have proof positive  
preserved a female with the back & ovaries  
attached to the neck & head of the skin in alcohol.  
As far as the *Leucostictes* are concerned  
I have lately had chances to observe them  
almost daily and in a large series of skins  
some 50 of var *littoralis* and 15 of var *leptocoma*.  
I find that the differences between the  
male and female particularly in the  
markings of the lower parts are con-  
sistent notwithstanding Mr. Ridgways  
assertions to the contrary. I find birds  
much scarcer here this winter than last,  
why I cant tell, it has not been any  
colder so far, in fact not as cold, but we  
have a little more snow. Last winter  
I took three specimens of *Glaucidium*  
*harrisi* var *californicum* all females  
and three or four specimens of *Sialia*  
*acadica*. This year I have not even seen  
one of the former and only took two  
of the latter, one of these I have had alive  
now for several months. Ravens in large  
numbers, Magpies, *Parus montanus* &  
*atricapillus* var. are about the  
only birds seen about the post, but a few  
miles from here. Clark's crow, Gullers  
Jay var *frontalis*, Crossbills are not  
uncommon.

Baird's Clap  
Feb. 7 - 1876

Yours Truly  
Chas. Bendire  
Capt. 1<sup>st</sup> Cav.

one specimen, a *Bees* *asio* *Kennicotti*.  
undoubtedly. It is now to be sent  
to him, and you can see the <sup>following</sup> *Bees*  
description of the nest & eggs  
from him. Should there be another  
specimen out here of which you should  
like to obtain. Will you compare  
etc. I will be happy to furnish them  
to you and assist you in any way  
I can. I do this thing entirely  
for pleasure and expect nothing  
for it, and would much rather assist  
a hard worker like you, than  
to have my skins buried in  
a drawer. Where they may lay for  
years before they are made use  
of. I can't take care of them any

Ernst Hutter Hutter H. J.  
June 15<sup>th</sup> 1881

Dear Sir,

I send you by to-  
day's mail a box containing two  
specimens of *Bees* *asio* *Kennicotti*.  
The light colored specimen is one of  
five which I obtained here during  
the past winter and spring. Two  
of these I presented to the Museum  
of Comparative Zoology and to Mr.  
Sturtevant and the other to the National  
Museum. I labeled them *Bees* *asio* *Kennicotti* of which you have

never seen the paper. This done  
at Portland Ct about a week ago  
I saw the paper New Haven con-  
cerned, and then undoubtedly the  
true Rennicotti in which the descriptions  
are false. I have no skins here to  
compare the difference in the several  
crosses of air. He calls macrallian  
Rennicotti and in your skin to be the  
most active of all our working  
Ornithologists. I take great pleasure  
in forwarding these specimens to  
you hoping that you will look  
the matter up and settle the proper  
status of the one found here. I  
know that you will be very materially

from the eastern form and of my memory  
I was might also know. He calls  
of which however I have not handled  
specimens for some years, but I have  
not seen the macrallian form.  
Soon as I obtain another female I  
will forward it to you to add to  
your collection, which I have reason  
to believe is already the best private  
one in the country. Would you find  
the difference in the two forms found  
in the North not sufficiently great  
to warrant considering them as  
two distinct races or an inclination  
to look upon them as such? You  
are at perfect liberty to either the

1848  
Iff and as I am subject to constant  
changes of Station etc. I find even  
my zoological Collection considerable  
I am dejected on my hand.

Very truly Yours  
Ch. Smith

Capt. Bendin

Jan 15, 1881.

purporting to belong to this species are both frauds  
of the first water. One I know is a woodpecker's  
egg & the other I am equally sure is a very small  
hen's egg unless I am very much mistaken. I  
examined them carefully when last in Washington. &  
I am anything but well supplied with eggs of the  
north eastern breeding species. Of *Certhia* I have but  
one set & *Sicus naevius* likewise. I have exchanged  
very little for the past four years. If you have any such  
species to spare, I will gladly exchange for them, don't  
want the nests as I have not the room to keep them

very truly yours  
Chas Bendire

Fort Walla Walla W. T.  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1881.

Dear Sir,  
I have just received your  
letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> ult. I know you were out  
collecting somewhere & thought you might have  
after me paid Dr. Herrick a visit at Ft.  
Custer. I have only been back four days my-  
self now, returned on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult from an  
extensive trip to the John Day river fossil  
region in eastern Oregon, where I have been  
making collections of fossils etc in the interest  
of the U. S. Geological Survey & the National  
Museum. I picked up nothing in the first  
line but another *Kennicott's Owl* & a white  
headed woodpecker. Ridgway pronounces these  
*Owls* true *Kennicott's*, shading off into the  
eastern *W. O.* & I suppose he is right after all.

Sept 1, 1881

Chas. Bendire



Still there is an immense difference in coloration between the coast specimens I sent you & those found about Halla Halla. The one I picked up in the Sna Day country a Jaundice specimen resembles the latter. Now that my attention has been drawn to these birds I find them not so very rare after all. I can undoubtedly get another half a dozen or so, during the coming winter. Most of the skins I made last winter I gave to Messrs George N. & Robert Lawrence of New York, a few to Tomhart to the National Museum, and about a dozen or so to Mr Allen of Cambridge but the latter were the cleanest to best in the lot. I shall commence again in a few days, as soon as I have my collection of fossils out of the way and when I get your list I will try to help you to fill a few of the

vacancies in your collection at any rate. I cant do scarcely anything here amongst the primitive species as I am located too far from the prime timber. As far as eggs are concerned, I have done very little during the past three or four seasons, nothing comparing with the collections I made in Arizona or about Camp Harny. I dont believe that I took over twenty species of eggs here this spring and not over 500 specimens. I believe, over half of these are Burrowing owl's eggs. Two sets of Kenacotts 4 & 5 each and one of 5 of the Canadian Owl from Harny are my principal additions to neither new to my collection. I see you obtained a set of the latter also this year mine measure  $116 \times 101$ ,  $119 \times 104$ ,  $118 \times 104$ ,  $119 \times 101$ ,  $120 \times 100$ , they appear to be a little more globular than yours, in other respects they agree perfectly with yours. The two eggs in the Smithsonian

my doubts about them for 1 *Erainsons* 1 sharp  
*Spinica hark*, 1 *gairaners* wood pecker & seems  
do this comprises my skins at present. I gave  
Mr Lawrence in New York most of them last  
spring & amongst them some fine ones. A *T. Falco*  
*insidians polyagrus* is the finest plumage a bird that  
Piggray has seen & there were a pair of *Suckley's Pigeon*  
hanks in the lot also. I will bear you in mind this winter

very truly yours

E. Bendire

Fort Halla Halla N.T.  
Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 1881.

Mr. William Brewster

Dear Sir

I have just received your letter this  
evening, and see by it that you do not agree  
with Mr. Piggray. The two sets of eggs came  
also to hand for which please accept my best  
thanks. I have plenty eggs of *A. furcarius* owl  
and will send you a set of 8 or 9 in a few days.  
So far as the Owls are concerned, you will  
find that there is scarcely any difference at  
least as far as I have been able to observe in  
any of the Halla Halla specimens taken by me  
they are all as nearly alike excepting perhaps  
in size as they well can be. Of the Portland  
specimen I sent you represents the true *Kenai-*  
*cotti* type, than mine are certainly something  
else. I shall send you another skin with this

Sept. 27, 1881

Capt. Bendire

a young bird which I killed up some 200 miles west of here on the John Day river in Grant county Oregon. It is a miserable skin and was shot with No 5 shot, and then packed in with a lot of fossils, but it will answer for comparison and is interesting as it is from a point so much further westward. I am sure of getting some more specimens as soon as the leaves fall off the trees, and will send them as fast as I take them. I enclose two letters of Mr Cragway on the subject, got them while I was in the John Day country and used them to wrap specimens in as paper was getting scarce with me, I happened to come across one after I got your letter and the one with a piece missing I noticed a day or two ago but could not find the balance, but you can easily get the drift of his letters. As soon as I saw the Portland specimen I

was satisfied that mine was probably a distinct race between *Keenickitti* & *asio* perhaps the *Masserelli* type which I had never seen. The young bird he refers to was one shot shortly after leaving the nest. I have another here in alcohol which I shall send on to the National Museum in a few days with a lot of other material. I will not let the Zoologist know anything further, about the matter, what I wrote at that time was to set myself right as the difference between the two specimens was in my opinion too great to admit their being one & the same thing. Cragway will not be able to show you anything different. I never give my birds away until towards spring or I can let you know what I take from time to time. Am just commencing to make skins again and have now 3 *Sabinis* grouse that is shot. Cragway calls them at least, I have

Saleon it will have to go to the National  
Museum, as I promised Prof. Baird  
a good specimen or two for mounting,  
provided I got any. If I send my skins  
through the National Museum I shall  
make that stipulation, that the whole lot  
will be turned over to you in fact for examina-  
tion. I want nothing for them, unless  
should you on any of your trips to the North  
get a number of good sets of eggs of any  
one species, you will give me the refusal  
of four duplicates. I have already made  
over 50 skins this month, & most of these  
are good ones and well made up. In the  
lot are three fine specimens of Richardson's  
Salcorn, according to my identification one  
adult male in full blue plumage & two  
females. I know Ridgway says the male  
adult is earth brown, but I don't believe  
it. One specimen has just changed to the

Fort Halla Halla A. T.  
Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 1881.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your  
letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> and am not at all surprised  
to hear that Mr. Ridgway expresses some  
what different views than his former letters  
did. If one have now considered his opinions  
as infallible to do not feel inclined to abide  
by his decisions. As I have no collection of  
skins of my own, or access to a large collection  
I must necessarily depend on the dictum  
of others, who can discriminate the nicer  
points & compare large series of skins from  
different localities & to be honest about  
it, I a great deal rather trust your  
judgment than Mr. Ridgway's. In  
order that you may know where all the

Specimens of the Hatta Hatta form of  
Scops are that have so far been collected  
by me, I will enumerate them again.  
Museum Comp. Zoology one ♂ to each  
Mr. Henshaw " ♂  
National Museum one ♂ to ♀ to few on in skins  
to also 1 ♀ in alcohol  
yourself two specimens, one of these  
from San Domingo to also  
a brilliant specimen  
these are all that I recollect.

I have now on hand a very fine adult  
female, taken a few days ago Wash. D.C.  
sent on to you by mail, about Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>  
with any other specimens I may take in  
the mean time. The chances are good for  
getting one or two more by that time any  
how I hope. I do not consider the form  
of Bonasa found here, any more satini

than you do, but that is what Mr. Ridgway  
calls them. I have already a good series  
of skins, eight in number <sup>of this form</sup> which I made  
this month. I expect to make others before  
the season is over. All these are at your  
disposal. I give all my skins away, last  
year Mr. G. Lawrence & Robert  
G. Lawrence got the greater portion of  
them, this year I mean to give the  
greater portion of them to you & Mr.  
Eugene Dicknell of New York City.  
I have been in the habit to send them  
through the National Museum & will  
do so again, unless you wish to have them  
sent to you direct. Before distributing  
any however, I want you to examine the  
whole lot & of course keep such as you  
want of each species, with but a single ex-  
ception. If I should only get one Bushy

adult does to traces of the immatures  
plumage are visible still on the back, all three  
are first class skins. I think this falcon wants  
a little more investigation yet also to in fact  
I am half to half inclined to the opinion that  
it is a good species to not a variety. It is  
as usual larger than Columbian to Sully.  
If the latter I gave Mr. Allen a fine pair  
last year. Prairie Falcons I have not taken  
as yet this season, last year I took seven  
two very old males & 5 females, they come  
about the post somewhat late.

Very truly yours

Chas. Bendire

Mr. William Brewster  
Cambridge Mass.

Capt. Bendire

Oct. 25, 1841.

Capt. Baird

Nov. 15, 1881.

Fort Halla Halla N. T.  
Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1881.

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir,

I send you by the same mail a box containing a single specimen adult ♀ of the *Beeps* found here. I have tried hard to get others but so far without success. When you are particularly anxious to get a certain bird you are sure not to find him. Although not looking for other species of owls particularly, I have obtained a number amongst them four fine specimens of the *Bubo* found here which I refer to Ridgway's new var. *taturatus* of which I can't find a description anywhere. The race found here are neither *arcticus* or *pacificus* I am sure.



and Short-eared Owls I have seen quite  
a number and on the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month  
one of my men brought me a very  
fine specimen of the *Nyctea scandiaca*.  
Although I saw at least two different  
specimens at Camp Harney Cr. and a  
mutilated one here last year, which had  
both wings cut off and <sup>possibly</sup> otherwise injured  
I believe the first specimen that I have any  
knowledge of as having been taken on this  
coast south of the Columbia river, although  
I have carefully looked for records & inquired  
about this owl in various localities. They  
seem to be much rarer here than in the  
east. With the exception of a couple of  
cold days about Oct 12<sup>th</sup> we have had  
rather warm weather up to date, so  
pleasant in fact that I still found  
a *Pipilo* here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst.

2 Falcons are entirely wanting. I have  
noticed very few so far. As soon as we  
get some snow which will bring the  
blackbirds about the post, I hope to get  
a few any how. Up to date I have made  
83 skins, it rains so much that hunting  
specimens is not pleasant work and on this  
account I do not get nearly so many  
as I otherwise would. The enclosed  
label belongs to the Owl I sent you  
in the same mail.

Yours very truly  
Chas. Bendire

Capt. Bendire

Nov 20, 1881

Fort Halle Halle St.  
Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 1881.

Mr. William Brewster  
Dear Sir

I have just obtained another specimen of the Scops found here which I will send on to you in three or four days, as soon as it becomes a little fat. It fell into the creek and is pretty fat but I am trying it now, and have no doubt but what it will make a very good skin. I think it is an adult male. I have sent you a ♀ on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst, which I hope you will

get in good order. We had our first  
monsoon yesterday and I hope that  
it will cause the birds to come down  
a little lower into the valley. I saw  
a small flock of Bohemian Wax-  
wings this morning & got two of them  
both young birds however. I have also  
heard of another Arctic Owl being  
seen about town & hope to get it if  
it stays long enough. *Falco*  
*virginianus saturatus* seem to  
be very plenty, I got 7 already  
but the different *Falcons* are scarce  
while last winter they were very  
common.

Very truly yours  
Chas. Brewer

They have some arrangement with the rail-  
roads I believe by which specimens are  
carried for little or nothing. If you  
will desire me after what I have written to  
you about the species I have, to the probable cost  
of freight, to send them direct either by express  
or freight why I will do so as soon as I hear  
from you, which will give you time enough to  
work them up during the winter. As far as I am  
concerned as I said before I prefer to send them  
to you direct, then you can select the best skins  
for yourself. So far, strange to say I have  
not succeeded in getting a single Buckle's  
falcon or for that matter a Prairie falcon either.  
Last winter I took the 3 races of columbarius  
here and I believe all before Dec 15<sup>th</sup> eight specimens  
and after that I own of the latter. Mr. Not-  
Lammee got four of these <sup>1 each</sup> & may be able  
to spare you a specimen in case I don't get  
any this season. I will write to him about it

Fort Halla Halla, N. T.

Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1881.

W. William Brewster

Dear Bird

Your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst came to hand  
in due time. The two specimens of *Beuphonia*  
to you on the 15<sup>th</sup> <sup>inst</sup> <sup>22<sup>nd</sup></sup> inst by mail with  
two in the Smithsonian, the one belonging  
to Mr. Tenshaw & the two in the Cambridge  
Museum will undoubtedly enable you to come  
to a correct determination in the matter.  
I think you will find but very little variation  
amongst the specimens which I took here, the  
males appear to me to be darker as a rule  
than the females, but as a rule the characters  
in the markings are pretty constant. I  
have taken another ♂ a couple of days ago  
but have not sent it on, it is just like the

last one I sent you. Now regarding the other specimens. I will take a good sized box to hold what I have already as most of the skins or fells one half are large ones. I will enumerate them as well as I can from memory. There are about 10-12 Puffins, 3 Sharp tail, 8 Great horned owls, 1 Snowy do 3 Short eared, 1 Long eared, 1 Booby and 8-10 Magpies, same number of the Killdeers as comes probably under anectens, 2 Goshawks, 2 Accipiter cooperi <sup>3 Richardson's</sup> Western form, 1 Osprey, 3 Rough legged Buzzards dark plumage, 2 Golden Plovers, 1 Hutton's Vulture, several species Woodpeckers and a lot of smaller birds. The skins with few exceptions are good ones in every respect, clean and well prepared, skinned down to root of bill like Linnaeus and the Corals I shall here after put up like the last one sent. I believe first class mammal skins are still desirable at least

Linnaeus told me, that few decent ones were to be found in eastern collections, so I made a lot for distribution. The Boobies are a very interesting series & although they will take up considerable room, I want to see them go together. They are all I think *Puffinus* var. *lateratus*. It is astonishing how many there are this year I had few already, two mounted for friends here. Now you can see for yourself, they will take considerable room & freights are high. I think to send them by express would cost too much. They charge me \$7.50 on 1000 cigars from New York, and I presume by freight it would cost not less than 25cts per pound. I prefer to send them to you direct, if the charges are not too much for you, as far as the gain in time is concerned I don't believe there would be much difference, between sending them to the Soc. Museum or direct.

Birds are very erratic in their movements. I think sometimes I can account for it, and then again I change my mind. I can easily account however for the absence of the Falcons. Last winter an immense flock of Brewer's Blackbird wintered about the post frequenting the Cavalry Station & manure piles, this season for some reason or another not a single Blackbird is to be seen & as the Falcons live on them principally they don't come around. For the great abundance of Jinks however I can't account, we have not had any very severe weather as yet, and all those I got so far are excessively fat, consequently hunger has not driven them into the valleys. I skinned one to day which had a quarter of an inch thick of fat all over the back & sides. Has Mr. Hoens obtained any Whistling Jinks for you in Arizona or is he still collecting for you there? I believe I am certain I could give him points where he would be sure of getting specimens

Capt. Bendire

Nov, 30, 1881.

For some reasons, birds seem to frequent  
only certain localities or often very restricted  
ones of that. I am very nearly being sent  
down there this fall and I would not have  
objected to it in the least. Arizona is not nearly  
worked out yet.

Very truly yours  
C. Bendire

Capt. Bendire  
Dec. 18, 1881

Fort Halls Halls H. T.  
Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 1881.

Mr. William Brewster  
Dr. Sir.

Your interesting letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst  
came to hand last night, and it did sur-  
prise me as you surmised, but I am  
satisfied now that your views are correct.  
With the material you had for comparison  
there can be but little doubt, in any that  
the Halls Halls specimens are the Lepidoc  
Kennicott, and I can also readily be-  
lieve that even in the specimens I took  
here there is considerable difference when  
you lay them together and compare them  
closely. I never had more than three  
together at any one time, giving them  
away about as fast as I obtained them.



As I am perfectly satisfied now, but  
was not before. I had sent you another  
specimen a male on the 22<sup>d</sup> of last month  
which I hope came to hand also. Since  
then I have taken another fine pair, but  
they I have still here. The series of the  
Great Horned Owl is still growing, I  
have taken not less than 13 now and I  
find a great deal of difference amongst  
them scarcely any two being exactly  
alike of the few I mean to send east.  
Three I have mounted for friends here.  
Falcons however keep away, I have seen  
but a single one this far and did not  
get him. Our winter is too open  
and mild to bring many birds down  
from the mountains, farmers are  
and have been ploughing for the  
last week all about here.

To day I came across a small flock  
of Bohemian Waxwings and got  
14 of them, but there seemed to be but  
a single mature bird in the lot. Evening  
 Grosbeaks which I have found here every  
winter yet, have not shown themselves  
yet up to date. I am sorry to hear  
that Mr. Allen is ill and hope it will  
not be anything serious. I received a  
short note from him a few days ago  
in which he stated he was somewhat  
under the weather. That Eastern  
Cyanide must be abundant during  
the winter, judging from what little  
I have seen of it.

Very sincerely yours  
Chas. Bendire

ornithology anyhow. We are still having  
most extra ordinary winter weather it is  
warm enough to dispense with fires and  
the birds live so much to eat everywhere  
that they are very much scattered and  
you cant get many at one time.

Very truly yours  
Ch. Bendire

Fort Halla Halla N.T.  
Jan 2<sup>d</sup> 1882.

Mr. William Brewster  
Dear Sir,

I have just received your letter of  
the 19<sup>th</sup> ult. and also the proof sheets.  
I shall note about getting fresh skins  
in cotton & do so hereafter when I have  
occasion to send any in that way. In the  
proof sheets there seems to me to be an undue  
proportion of the male sex indicated, I am  
almost positive that you have sent more  
females east than that. I have already  
written to you that I am perfectly satis-  
fied that your views based on the varied  
material before you are correct, this  
is the only way the thing can be got  
at & I know that well enough to  
not rush into print myself. In regard  
to the California Scops I would have  
preferred if you had given it the name

Jan. 2, 1882

Chas. Bendire

first suggested, particularly as it was  
King's. I have been at the Rail-  
road office to day and although I could  
not find out positively how much the birds  
would come to exactly by prepaying  
here I am satisfied that \$1500 or  
even \$2000 would not cover the expense  
in getting them to Boston. I shall  
therefore ship them to the Nat. Museum  
in Washington by the Quartermasters  
department and hope to get them started  
by the end of the week. I shall write  
you when I ship them & request Prof.  
 Baird to send the boxes to you unopened  
and that after you have examined them  
a portion will go to the Nat. Museum.  
I don't believe that there will be much  
time lost in this way and they will  
reach you at any rate by the end of  
Sept. judging from other shipments  
I have made. I shall send you a detailed  
invoice of the collection & how to dispose  
of them.

Of the horned owls I prepared 10 specimens  
up to date & there are two distinct styles  
amongst them perhaps both referable to one  
race but I don't believe it. I have a nice  
pair of the S. & Kennicott's also in the lot.  
As Mr. Stephens must have done well  
while collecting for you in Arizona  
to get 15 Whittney's owls alone. I saw  
some of the young just out of the nest  
myself. Now about the Striped scapulars  
did he get any specimens of this species and  
also of *Glaucaudium Thalassoides* both  
of which I found about Tucson. He must  
have taken a good lot of eggs at the  
same time. Did you get them also?  
I hope at some time or another to get an  
other chance at collecting in Arizona  
it is not worked out yet by any means  
& with the knowledge I have now I know  
that I could do a great deal better than  
I did in '2 when I know scarcely any-  
thing about any the birds found there  
and for that matter very little about

are not the Kinglet a good deal brighter  
on the back than the Eastern form. Some  
of the dates on the labels will surprise you  
but they are correct. To find Doves in Lat.  
46 in Dec is rather unusual & Pipilos  
also. I wish you would examine the series  
of Melospizas carefully, I don't think  
they are the true fallax, some I think  
come pretty near guttata, nearer in fact  
than to fallax according to my opinion.  
I saw another specimen of the Snowy Owl  
in town this morning & the boy that brought  
it in said there were several others with  
it at the time he shot it. I have heard  
of others also, so that it would appear  
that this bird is not so very rare on this  
coast after all, particularly when one takes  
the difference of the climate in corresponding  
latitudes into consideration.

Yours very truly  
Chas. Bendire

Chas. Bendire

Jan. 9, 1882

Fort Halla Halla N. T.  
Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 1882.

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir,

I have turned over to the Quartermaster here to day a case containing the first skins made up to date, for shipment to the National Museum. Judging from former lots this lot will reach there by the end of February. I will write to Prof. Baird about it & turn over the lot to you intact for examination and distribution. I enclose an invoice of contents to you and the disposition to be made of the skins. I had at first not intended to give any of these to the National Museum but as some of the series are tolerably large and they have to bear some expense in the transportation of the specimens I

not more than fair, that they should have some of them. I also enclosed a box of eggs containing a set of eight of the Gurnoming one, taken here last spring. Date etc will be found on the eggs. I am curious to know how the skins will arrive, I have packed them as well as I know how without taking up too much room, the principal thing I am afraid of, is that they will be secured all out of shape and, that some of the skins may break being pretty well dried out. They are all poisoned well enough, the skin of the head skinned down to the root of the bill, the way Tenshaw does it & the wings are all thoroughly cleaned. I dont think that there will be any danger of insects attacking them whatever.

A good many of the skins are in good order and were well shaped, but how they will look when you get them is another matter. One adult Tostant I put in wet, but wired it, and did

not clean off the blood, as I wanted it to go in this lot. It is the most mature bird of this species that I have taken yet, and by being cleaned it will make a very fine specimen. It was exceedingly fat but for that matter all the raptors found here this winter are in that condition. Amongst the Magpies are some very fine specimens also & Tenshaw tells me that there are but very few good skins of them to be found in the east. They are good birds to kill off & I shall get a lot more of them. I am sorry I cant send more Gurnoming Grackles the two sent were the first ones taken and I happened to have a last years specimen. Their different phrases of plumage is not as well known yet as it might be. I know that from the specimens that have passed through my hands at different times. The Northern Waxwing series is a poor one, they were shot with large shot and all killed at the same time with one exception & I could make a decent skin out of any of them.

Invoice of Birdskins shipped Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 1882 to Mr. William Brewster Cambridge Mass, through National Museum Washington D.C. to be distributed as indicated

Species	Total		Brewster		Cambridge		Brewster		Cambridge		Brewster		Cambridge		Total
	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	
Dusky w. Storma Owl	6	5	2	2	1	1	"	"	2	1	1	1	1	11	12
Hagpie	8	7	3	2	1	1	"	"	2	2	2	2	2	15	
Snowy Owl	"	1	"	X	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Bairnsong Hawk	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
North Western Tisheron	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Western Goshawk	3	1	X	X	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	4	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1	2	X	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
Rough legged Hawk	1	1	"	"	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Oregon ruffed Grouse	10	2	2	2	2	"	2	"	2	"	2	"	2	12	
Short-eared Owl	5	1	X	1	2	"	"	"	1	"	1	"	"	6	
Black-headed Steller's Jay	7	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	"	"	11	
Golden Plover	"	2	"	X	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Kingfishers	2	1	X	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
Richardson's Merlin	1	2	X	X	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
Kennicott's Owl	"	1	"	X	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Coopers Hawk	1	1	X	X	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Western Meadowlark	"	3	"	X	"	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	3	
Mourning Dove	1	"	X	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Coastal Black-th. Blackbird	6	3	2	X	2	1	"	"	2	1	"	"	"	9	
Oregon Nonbird	6	3	2	X	2	1	"	"	2	1	"	"	"	9	
Engelmann's Flicker	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Lewis Woodpecker	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Sparrowhawk	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Brewster's Blackbird	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Northern Waxwing	7	5	2	X	2	1	1	1	2	2	"	"	"	12	
Mountain Song Sparrow	8	5	3	2	2	2	"	"	1	1	2	"	"	13	
Kinglet Ruby Crown	1	1	X	X	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Rocky Mtn. Bluebird	2	2	X	1	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	4	
H. Savannah Sparrow	1	1	X	X	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Goldfinch	1	1	X	X	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Oregon Chickadee	1	2	X	X	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
White-crowned Sparrow interm	3	5	X	2	1	1	"	"	1	1	"	1	1	8	
Am. Titlark	1	"	X	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Storma Lark	1	1	X	X	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Gairdners Woodpecker	2	"	X	X	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Evening Grosbeak	2	1	X	X	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
Tree Sparrow	2	2	X	X	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	4	
Northern Towhee	1	"	X	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Western Robin	2	1	X	X	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
Gr. North. Shrike	1	3	X	2	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	4	

First choice to Mr Brewster  
 second " " Dickhaut  
 third " " Nat. Museum  
 fourth Cambridge Mass  
 fifth Lawrence  
 Total 1170

Amongst the Gr. Storma Owls are two different patterns of coloration one the Saporatus style the other I am doubtful about what should it be referred to? The Oregon ruffed grouse are much lighter colored generally than the coast birds. Is the adult ♂ Western Goshawk actually separable from the eastern I don't believe it. This specimen was only put up yesterday but I sent it along, although rather hooded the skin is a good one without any holes & this is the oldest bird I have ever seen out here. Is the Steller's Jay referable to annectans? What do you call the ♂ Falco richardsoni or not? Tell about the Melospiza I don't consider them the true fallax. Are not the Kinglets much brighter above on the back than the eastern ones? What is the Towhee Northern or Oregonian I call it aretius?

On Jan 10

Capt. Bendire  
Jan'y 9, 1882  
Invoice of Skins

Capt. Bendire  
Jan'y 9, 1882.  
Invoice of Skins

I had another accident with that portion of my collection which I have here with my same 4-5000 in number. Before going east in the fall of '79 I packed them all in a large chest & stored them here, & they remained there, till a few days ago, when I intended to bring them to my quarters and overhaul them. They were placed in the upper story of one of our ware-houses and hung to a hook & tackle to let the box down to the lower floor. For some reason the rope around the box slipped & the chest came down some 15 feet with a crash and burst open, you can imagine the rest I think about one fourth are completely ruined and I am only satisfied it is no worse, I am surprised that any are left. I came nearly being injured also, as the chest came near falling on me. There is one consolation I have large series of most of the species which the box contained and quite a number were duplicates, and most of my Arizona eggs and the rarest ones I found since I took east with me & these are in St. Louis. No. Peterson here I lost by fire in '76, and the last breakage I don't seem to make much head way, but such things can't be helped - I shall commence again.

Capt. Bendire  
Fort Halls, Idaho, Feb 16, 1882.

Mr. William Brewster.  
Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult has been received several days ago, and I hope that by the time this reaches you the box of skins will also have arrived. Prof. Baird has written to me that it will be forwarded at once, but in case you have not received it yet when you get this, you had better inquire about the box either from the Professor or Mr. Ridgway. I know how slow they are at the Smithsonian as well as any body, they have Alcoholic collections of mine there now, for over two years & I can't hear anything about them further than that Mr. S. & Co will examine them shortly. It is the same old story all the time & I am getting used to it, and when I want prompt information I send my material to some specialist then I don't have to wait several years. Since I sent this box I have taken 3 more or rather four Scops and



Remicotti 3 ♂ + 1 ♀. The latter I skinned this morning. It is considerably larger than any other ♀ I have taken at the spring measuring fully 8 inches and over. I want to give a pair to Mr. George N. Lawrence in New York, as I have promised him a pair, but if you want a couple more I will give you the preference. Or perhaps you may want the ♀ on account of its large size and give him a smaller one. Then I want to let the Nat. Museum have one or two also. I will undoubtedly get others. A pair occupy an old hollow tree close to my house again, which I could shoot almost any day, but I want their eggs more than I do the birds. New birds obtained since to not contained in the lot sent you are 1. Western Marsh wren and 3 Cedar birds. I was quite surprised to find the latter here and during quite cold weather too. They are all three young of the year, and were associating with the Northern Waxwings of which I have taken some 16 more or very fine specimens amongst them, much better than those I have sent you. I have been now for more than two weeks after an other adult gophawk but cant get

within shooting distance although he comes around almost every day. I have not heard from Mr. Dicknell yet or if it is possible that he may not be any longer in New York, before sending him his specimens will you please drop him a line to should you not hear from him keep them for further disposition. Will Mr. Stephens collect again in Arizona this season? if so will you please give me his address, I may be able to make some arrangement with him about eggs. I bought a few from him some years ago. I got all the species you mention in your letter excepting Setoph. picta found the birds but not the eggs, Micrathene whitneyi or Myiarchus cooperi, but if this form is the one found about Tucson then I have their eggs, I calla them M. cinereus horreus, or I should have said cinereusens. Now I hate to take these eggs, but if you are not going on with your collection of course I should like to get them, and I will make it up in birds to you. For my own satisfaction I should like to see an egg of Hel. luciae also, but I know that these 'tooth' are correctly identified. This I will return again as I have two sets I think left in my St Louis collection which I stored there

and hope for better luck hereafter. Do you know  
when the two volumes of *Fairy Fauna & Pig-*  
*my Waterbirds* will see the light. Are they in  
press yet. I understood more than a year ago that  
the manuscript was all ready & that they were soon  
to be published. Anything further which I may  
get in the first line or of which I have not already  
sent specimens if small ones I can easily send by  
mail if you wish them. During the Spring and  
Summer however I will not be able to do much  
as the drills, target practice & other duties interfere  
materially with extensive collecting.

Yours sincerely  
Chas Bendire

Capt. Bendire

March 26, 1882

Fort Kalla Kalla A. T.  
March 26<sup>th</sup> 1882

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst was received by me on the 22<sup>d</sup> and in the meantime I have also been informed by Prof. Baird that the box of birds had been received at the Smithsonian & forwarded to you, so that you got them anyhow by the middle of the month. Since my last I have taken but three additional species besides the two mentioned already since the shipment of the box. Cedar birds & Longbilled Marsh wren, the last three additions are Western Gnatcatcher Hawks which have just returned & a fine specimen of the California Squirrel Hawk a ♀ & a single specimen of Townsend's Solitaire. The finding of the latter here quite surprised me. The bird is common enough in some of the adjacent

sections, the foothills amongst the junipers  
but I certainly never expected to find it  
on the plains amongst the cottonwoods, I saw  
a pair & obtained one, they were presumably  
stragglers. I have five more *Remicott's*  
*Chicks* on hand & probably get one or two  
more when I take a couple of their nests  
with eggs which I know not. I presume  
I shall have to give the National Museum  
a pair of them & another pair to Mr. Lawrence  
but you shall have a chance to examine  
them first. I am sorry Mr. Allen's health  
is so poor but Colorado in winter & early  
spring would seem to me not to be the best  
climate in the world for an invalid.  
I have heard from Mr. Dickell he is  
still at Riverside on Hudson New York City  
& I presume he has written to you also in the  
mean time. I have written to Stephens some  
time ago but directed to Riverside & conse-  
quently failed to hear from him. Will  
try him again. I presume that I shall  
get a change of station before many more

weeks & I hope I will get to some good  
locality for general collecting. Am trying  
to go to St. Klamath Oregon, which is  
a splendid place for birds, particularly the  
Pinnacine species as well as all kinds of  
waterfowl & raptors, if I get there I can  
make a big haul of both birds & eggs  
although I shall be probably too late for  
the latter this season at least. I want  
to get away from here, as there is little  
more to be found here outside of what I have  
already obtained. Prof. Baird is interesting  
himself in getting me sent to Klamath & if  
he succeeds of course I shall have to take  
this into consideration & give him the  
greater portion of my captures, but I shall  
not forget your interests either.

very truly yours  
Chas. Bendire

had already been incubated about a week.  
Never found any so early in the 37 nests that  
I have taken & have a record of.

Yours sincerely  
John C. Bent

Sitt Halla. Halla H T  
March 27<sup>th</sup> 1882

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> acknowledging  
the receipt of the box of skins came to hand  
last evening, just after sending a letter to  
you. I am right glad that you told me about  
the condition of some of the skins & how it was  
caused. That is just what I wanted to know,  
but only a collector whose heart & soul is in the  
matter, would say anything about a case like this.  
Now I have not the slightest doubt but what  
your lots sent on by me, to the Smithsonian  
suffered just in the same manner, all of which  
could easily have been avoided, had they only men-  
tioned it. I can readily understand it, you  
delight in having fine smooth skins in your  
collection & that is precisely what I would want  
also if I made such a collection and it is shocking  
to have a lot of good material injured in  
transit when it could just as well have been

Mar. 27, 1882

Capt. Bendire

presented. I see the point well enough now  
or it wont happen again if it can be helped.  
Here I could have obtained sheet cotton easily  
enough and two or three dollars worth would  
have packed the whole lot well & even if it had  
cost more I would willingly have paid double  
as much, to insure the arrival of the skins  
in good order. It may however not always  
be practicable for me to get this sheet cotton  
in such a case & what is the next best way  
to pack the birds. I want to be fully posted  
here after. Then there is another matter, I  
want you to tell me frankly about any faults  
in the making up of the skins, or are never  
too old to learn. As far as the distribution  
of the birds is concerned, I am in no hurry  
whatever, you take your own time to this &  
keep them together as long as you want to do  
so. They are all gifts anyhow & the different  
parties that are to get them can wait.  
I dont care for Grah opinions as you call  
them, but want positive information, the  
former I can form myself.

I think that I shall send the balance of the  
birds on also before long & direct that they  
be turned over to you also for examination  
so that you can include the whole lot in your  
paper at one time, and I think this to write  
to packed to satisfy you, at any rate I shall  
try to follow your instructions to the letter.  
There is just the difference, they never would  
have said anything about the condition if the  
birds had remained at Washington, they would  
have called them a nice lot of skins & that would  
have been the end of it just like they did last year,  
when I sent them about the same number  
& packed in the same way. No just lecture  
array whenever you see anything wrong, you  
will not offend me thereby, I do it myself  
when I get a badly blown lot of eggs sometimes,  
and I know how provoking it is to get very  
specimens almost as good as spoiled by care-  
lessness, when it might have been avoided just  
as well as not. I took a set of five eggs  
of *Sops* and *Harriotti* today & a set of  
six of *his americanus* on the 16<sup>th</sup> & the latter

them up, but have not heard from him since.  
He lives in a good locality in a timbered  
country, where he should get good specimens  
I want to monopolize him as much as  
possible, on the eggs to have offered him  
good prices for such as I still want.  
Ventner is the present terminus of the N.  
P.R.R. to the west a small map which  
is as correct as any that can be got at  
present, being the latest issued. I hope  
to get a change of station before long to either  
St Klamath or St Colville both are on  
the map & both in prime timber. Hope you  
will have a successful trip while in  
Colorado.

Yours sincerely  
Chas E Bendire

Apr. 3, 1882  
~~Mar. 27, 1882~~  
Capt. Bendire

Fort Hall, Idaho T.  
April 3<sup>d</sup> 1882

Mr William Brewster

Dear Sir

Your of the 18<sup>th</sup> ult has been received.  
Do it you wish to know whether you  
shall send the whole lot of skins to each  
person in turn or distribute them your-  
self. The 2 best are to go to Mr Eugene  
Picknell, Riverdale on Hudson, with  
them the few Mr George Lawrence  
is to get might be put to he can send them  
to him. This would only leave those  
for the Museum of Comparative Zoology  
to the National Museum, which latter you  
can easily enough pick out to send to him  
direct if with sending at all. I am  
perfectly satisfied that your division of  
the lot will be perfectly fair to the recipients  
I will have to be satisfied, with what they get

I grant Mr. Dickcote to get the number  
I mentioned as I have given him a list,  
which I have got done to any of the  
other parties however. I note what  
you say about the different races. I  
thought, but as I have no specimens to com-  
pare with that our Song Sparrow was more  
like guttata than fallax. I for my part  
am quite satisfied that the *P. Richardsoni*  
is nothing like than a bird in the adult plumage  
to the plumage ~~as described~~ <sup>as such</sup> it is not adult.  
I think I have sent a similar specimen  
of the previous winters collecting 80-81  
to Mr. Allen for the Museum, but that  
skin I took to be the adult male of *P.*  
*gambelii*; it is much smaller than the  
one sent you, but would be worth while  
looking up. I don't think the grouse  
are referable to *umbelloides*, which  
are much smaller, at least those  
I found at Ft. Harnoy averaged  
a good deal smaller than the birds  
found here. Of course without

specimens to compare it is a hard matter  
to give a positive opinion. The *S.*  
*hornia* birds certainly represent two  
races to *saturatus* is one of them but what  
is the other? I have another two sparrows  
here which has as near as I remember the  
upper tail coverts & rump distinctly barred.  
I shall keep your opinions regarding these  
birds as confidential of course.

I gave your address the other day to a party  
who makes skins & who write to me to  
put him in communication with collectors  
in the east. Besides yours I gave him Cott.  
*P. Lawrenceus* of New York but no others.  
I am trying to get him to collect certain  
species of eggs for me which he has promised  
to do, but promises as a rule don't pay out.  
His name is Richard Fry, Tentmaker  
Post office Coonemay Co. Idaho. I don't  
know him, he writes me that he collects birds  
& wanted me to put him in correspondence  
with parties in the east. I have written him  
to send me a skin or two, to see how he makes



Address to Fort Klamath  
Lake Co. Oregon

Fort Halla Halla N.T.  
May 17<sup>th</sup> 1882

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of April 30<sup>th</sup> from Colorado Springs Col. was received several days ago. I have not taken much time I have written to you last, and do not expect to do much more till I get fairly settled at Fort Klamath Lake Co. Oregon for which point I expect to start with my company about the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. I shall send on what birds I have skinned before I go, through the National Museum as usual. The *Archibuteo ferrugineus* is not promised to any one & you are welcome to it. It is a fine specimen a large fully adult female I think & in very fair order, but slighter Hooded than

Wm. Brewster  
May 17, 1882  
Capt. Bendire

I shall see that it will be properly  
packed. There are also 5 or 6 more  
sets and Remicott's of the disposition  
I will write later. I have taken  
three more sets of eggs of Remicott's  
and have skinned a young only a few  
days old & shall skin another one or two  
somewhat older, so that the different  
stages can be fully illustrated.

On 17, about Ft. Klamath I hope  
to have an excellent field in all  
branches & I shall make the most of  
it. I have sent Mr. Ruthven Deane  
of Chicago a rather interesting  
specimen of *Melospiza fasciata* Fallax  
a partial albin - which may reach  
him in time for you to see it on  
your way back if you go through  
Chicago. I suppose the season was  
rather late in Colorado, like it  
has been & is yet here.

It snows on our Blue mountains  
almost daily & the snow is three feet  
deep yet on the summit I am told.  
Notwithstanding the cold & late season  
some of our birds commenced breeding  
unusually early. I took four sets of  
eggs of *Melospiza fallax* on April 5<sup>th</sup>  
found young ones on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Found  
nest of Virginia rail with eggs on April  
26<sup>th</sup> & young birds of same species per-  
haps a week old on same date.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May found nest of *Circus  
hudsonicus* with not less than 8 eggs  
this is the largest number I have ever  
seen laid by a hawk, took another with  
6 also. Took also a set of Magpie egg  
with 10 to the set & same number from  
a reshaped flicker. Have also received  
a fine set of five eggs of the Prairie  
falcon & will shortly have several  
sets of *Clamys leucurus*.

Yours, Sincerely  
Chas E. Bendire

Capt. Bendire

May 24, 1882

Fort Hall, Idaho A.T.  
May 24<sup>th</sup> 1882

Mr. William Brewster

Dear Sir,

In the confusion of packing  
my traps preparatory to leaving  
for Ft. Klamath Oregon, I have  
put away the lot of birds contained  
in the last box which I packed a  
few days ago. I have written Mr. Baird  
to send it to you for a number  
in connection with the specimens pre-  
viously sent, and that the greater portion  
of the specimens should be returned  
to the Nat. Museum.

Amongst the birds it contains is a  
California Squirrel hawk, which is  
for yourself, 5 adult Toph and Redw.  
cocks, a pair of the same species.

Sept to Mr. George N. Lawrence  
of New York & the others return  
to the National Museum. There are  
about the only important ones. Should  
there be anything amongst the rest  
that you wish to keep, just do so.  
I have been ready for the last two  
days to move but have to wait per-  
haps another day for the wagon trans-  
portation to be put in good shape.  
I march across country, taking in  
en route some very interesting little  
country. I expect to be about 25  
days en route and may perhaps  
be able to pick up a few eggs en  
route also. *Tamias solitarius*  
I think is common in portions of  
the region I pass through. The  
vicinity of Klamath itself is  
a splendid field - I think and  
has never been carefully gone  
over. I hope to do some good

work there if I have half a chance  
Hoping that your Colorado trip  
has come up to your expectations  
I remain

Truly yours  
C. J. Smith

To give you an idea. I drove over to Williams  
near the stream I refer to and in a space not  
over 50 yards long I saw at one and the same  
time three trout take flies on three different  
rods all in less than 10 minutes time & I weighed  
the fish myself after they were landed. One  $5\frac{3}{4}$   
 $6\frac{1}{2}$  &  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lbs all genuine Salmo pur-  
puratus the Black Spotted Mountain Trout.  
And such fish are not considered big ones here  
either, trout have been taken weighing over 20  
lbs. This place would make some of your eastern  
sportsmen go wild, and next year, if everything  
goes well I mean to have some out here to  
spend a month or so. I have travelled a good  
deal, but have never seen more lovely country  
in summer at least than this is.

Sincerely Yours  
Chas. Bendire

Fort Klamath Oregon  
June 28<sup>th</sup> 1882.

Mr. William Brewster,  
Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst arrived  
here yesterday, and I came here on the 18<sup>th</sup>.  
I am more than pleased with my new station  
and hope to do some good work here. Mr. Means  
has published a partial list of the birds found about  
Fort Klamath in the Nuttall Bulletin Series,  
but I see that it is anything but complete, a  
number of species not mentioned in said list having  
come under my observation already during  
the few days I have been here. Although late  
in the season for eggs I took some very good  
ones on the way over and am picking up some-  
thing or another in that line every day. Some  
three days march to the east of here on the  
East fork of the De Chutes river Oregon I  
met with a family of *Perisoreus canadensis*  
*sticurus*, which had just left the nest or were  
scarcely able to fly yet. This was rather

June 28, 1882

Chas. Bendire

late it seemed to me June 14<sup>th</sup>. Some of  
my men caught two of the young I only saw  
three & brought them to me alive. As I was  
on the march at the time I did not keep  
them but let them go again, much to the joy  
of the old birds which followed me up closely.  
The young were of a uniform dark slate  
hue color. I looked a few minutes for the  
nest but could not see it. The birds were  
found in a grove of small pines at an  
altitude of about 4200 feet. I presume that  
I shall meet with these birds here as well  
but I have not seen any yet. *Dendroica*  
*auduboni* breeds abundantly here, found several  
nests, but only one with eggs. All placed on  
small pines. *Empidonax obscurus* & *pusillus*  
are also found plentifully here. A pair  
of *Sitta pygmaea* have their nest within 20  
feet of my desk where I am writing now  
& I had them constantly in view. I took  
a nest of 6 eggs of this species a few days ago  
but I do not mean to disturb them but  
let them raise their brood in peace.

I shall not shoot so many birds here myself  
of the same species as I did at Halls Halls,  
it would spoil my chances of getting their  
eggs. I have as usual already to some families  
with some of our ors here. Took a young  
one alive which was big enough to fly out of  
its nest on the 23<sup>d</sup>; not a bit very late it seems  
to me, as it is one of the great horned Owls  
likely the var. *saturatus* & yesterday I shot  
a P. *pygmaea*. This looked to me so small  
that I thought it might be *Whitneyi* or  
perhaps something new, but it was only a ♂  
P. *pygmy*, had I known it I would not have  
shot it. The last box of skins sent by me, will  
scarcely reach you by the time this letter does.  
The box had not been shipped when I left  
Halls Halls May 27<sup>th</sup>. I sincerely hope  
Mr Allen will recover his health again & that  
his stay in Colorado may benefit him.  
Besides the abundance of birds  
found here we also have I think the finest  
trout streams containing the largest trout  
and more of them than any other stream in the U.S.

which I cant satisfactory locate and it  
would not surprize me if there was not  
something more in the lot. I shall send  
a few skins on before winter closes  
the roads, other wise they would have to  
wait till next June or July.

Very truly yours  
Chas Bendire

Sept. 15, 1882

Chas. Bendire

Fort Klamath Oregon  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 1882.

Mr. William Brewster.  
Dear Sir.

I have finally a little time again  
for letter writing and will answer  
yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> ult. first. I have already  
given you what information I can  
in regard to *Talco Columbarius* *juv. Rhy.*  
and I think you will find several specimens  
in the collection of the Lawrence in  
New York. Robert D. Lawrence will  
undoubtedly know to whom he has dis-  
posed the specimens I sent him. Oridge  
may saw the lot & said there were  
typical specimens of the three races  
amongst the series I think he or others  
in number. Now is Mr Allen is he  
getting any better & are there no hopes  
for his recovery. I am perfectly satis-

find that my specimens which I sent  
you will all <sup>have</sup> received more study than  
they would have got from any other ornithologist  
in the east, and further more  
I am much more inclined to abide by  
your dictum, than with that of others  
I might name. I am only sorry that  
you can't have the first say on the lot  
I shall send on from here, but I shall  
write to Prof. Baird that it is my  
wish provided you care to examine the  
collection, to let you do so, and also to  
give you some of the duplicates. I am  
getting some interesting things and  
I may say that I have not fairly started  
~~yet~~ still I must have close on 200 skins  
already. Today I got a fine warbler  
close to D. migriceps but do not  
think it is referable to that species possibly  
something new. I agree with you about  
the rufous grouse and do not think  
they are *cinii* at least not typical  
and still they are certainly not *umbelloides*

You can see the disadvantage I suffer  
under I can't have access with out here  
to large collections to compare with, so  
the next best thing for me to do is to  
say nothing of doubtful results. The eggs  
of *S. picta* arrived in good order and  
I am ever so much obliged to you for them.  
I noticed Bryant's description at the time,  
but as he received the eggs from some one  
in Arizona who knows little or nothing  
about ornithology I thought that the  
identification was perhaps in error to  
that you know it to be so. Mr. Bryant  
himself is very careful however & thoroughly  
reliable, I know father & son personally.  
Amongst the captures I have made so far  
is a male gold hawk just in the transition  
plumage, a very interesting specimen  
I should judge to plumage not noticed  
before I think. Two *Talio* *Mexicanus*  
*polyagrus*, one *Sesalix richardsoni*  
and a number of common species.  
Amongst the smaller ones are two or three



I can get at it. You refer the  
Melospiza to guttata. I always did  
insist that they belonged there more than  
to sallow, and I think that that male  
Audubon bird turn out the adult of suchness.  
I wrote you so at the time & the one I gave  
to Mr. Allen is the same etc.

Yours very truly  
Chas. Bendire

Sept. 27, 1882  
Chas. Bendire

Fort Klamath Oregon  
Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 1882.

Mr. William Brewster.  
Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst and  
the postal cards, proo sheets etc came  
to hand during the past two days.  
The distribution of the specimens as  
made by you is perfectly satisfactory  
to me in every respect, particularly  
as Mr. Dickins gets the same  
quantity as originally stated by me.  
I had written to him what he was  
to get but not to any of the others.  
I shall pack a box or two of skins  
in a few days which will go on yet  
this year. There are some nice things  
in the lot of very peculiarly marked

*Stus atricapillus*, have never seen any  
myself in that plumage before, two *Hirundo*  
*luteo* *maucanus* *polyagrus*, one *fulvorum*  
*richardsoni*, a number of *Circus hudsonius*,  
in all sorts of plumages, one *Glaucidium*  
*gnoma*, *Dendroica nigrescens* or a  
near one the feet markings are different  
in this specimen, two *Sphyrapicus*  
*hyemalis* both ♀, *Empidonax albellatus*  
*viridis*, *arcticus*, *Passerella iliaca*  
*megarhynchos*, *schistacea*, *Picicorvus*  
*californianus* & *Gymnocitta cyano-*  
*cephala* & others. In all some 130  
skins prepared since I came here.

I forgot there are some *Bonasa um-*  
*bellus umbelloides* at last that is what  
I call them in this list also & some *Bonasa*  
*obscura* as well & *Perisoreus*  
*obscurus* also. I shall hereafter keep  
a record to my own number with  
every specimen sent off, so that I

know where they go to. I shall write  
to Prof. Baird to let you come in for  
some of the duplicates which I take here.  
but as I promised to send everything  
to the Nat. Museum in case he succeeded  
in getting me ordered here, I must  
keep my word. I should like very  
much for you to see the white series  
which I shall ship from here from  
time to time. On this lot is also a  
juv. *Anser altirostris* shot on Sept 10th  
which I strongly suspect was hatched  
in the vicinity. None of the geese have  
come from the north yet. I saw a hawk  
about a week ago & was quite close  
to it for but if I had shot it, it would  
have been impossible for me to get it, which  
reminded me very much of that single  
specimen of *Onychotis grateri*, in shape  
color it resembled it only much as far  
as my memory served me. I hope to  
run across it again sometime, where

Capt. Bendire

Oct. 19, 1882

Fort Klamath Oregon  
Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 82.

Mr. William Brewster  
Dear Sir

Your of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst arrived a couple of days ago. I am sorry you did not get my letter about the whereabouts of more specimens of pigeon hawks in time to be of any use. By the way I took two other fine adult males of this species on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. These two are marked as near as my memory serves me just like the one in last years collection but I think both are a trifle larger. When Mr. Allen gets better try and see that specimen, I think it is still higher colored than the one you have. I am getting some fine skins here, and to give you an idea of a days results for myself & one of my men I will enumerate ours today. I hunted along the base of the Cascades about 10 miles from here and about a mile or so in the timber as well as along the borders of it, left at 8 A.M. yesterday & returned

at 9 A.M. this morning with the following  
specimens. 1 *Thryothorus marianus polyagrus*  
1 *Colaptes auratus* adult & very dark,  
1 *Coronea obscura* 11 spec. *Perisoreus obscurus*  
6♂ & 5♀. 1 *Passercula iliaca schistacea*, 1 *Spizella*  
*usculata swainsoni*, 1 ♀ *Picus vittatus harrisi*, 1 ♂  
*Picoides arcticus*, 1 *Empidonax alpestris*, 1 ♀  
*Empidonax thryothorus* & by the way. I can't see even  
a single ♂ of this species although I have already taken  
4 ♀ females. 1 *Sitta pygmaea* 1 *Sitta carolinensis*  
*laculeata* 1 *Procellaria gramineus confinis*. &  
I could have taken other birds if so inclined,  
but can't skin them fast enough. Four days ago  
I am almost certain of seeing a White Gyrfalcon  
& came near getting him too. One however  
seem to be scarce. I have not shipped any  
skins as yet but will within a week as soon  
as I get the tea mill filled & I have enough  
now to do it. I have received acknowledg-  
ments for the skins from everyone excepting  
Mr. Dickson & as long as he has written  
to you it makes no difference to me

so that he got the skins. I managed to  
make 15 skins to day & this is about as many  
as I care to prepare in one day. This is a  
grand field for birds, I have not gone after  
any of the water birds yet but from all I can  
learn the variety is even greater yet than  
of the land birds. I hope to be able to spend  
a few days on the lake with them before long.

Yours truly  
Chas. Bendire

Capt. Bendin

Dec. 4, 1882

Fort Klamath, Oregon  
Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 1882.

Mr. William Brewster.  
Dear Sir.

Yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> ult. was received  
some time ago, since my last of Oct  
19<sup>th</sup> I have not done so remarkably well.  
Birds are getting to be very scarce about  
here now very few wintering. Vitmice  
Kinglets, Creepers, the Henscotted, juncos  
and red bellied nuthatches, Harris' wood-  
pecker are about the most common of the  
smaller birds, then there are the Magpie  
Stellers Jay & an occasional Clark's crow  
left. With ~~now~~ then a Great horned  
Owl & a red tailed hawk. Of course ducks  
& Geese are still plenty and other waterfowl  
as well, but I don't get the time to investigate

the waterbirds much, the lake being too far  
off. What is left now are the winter residents.  
It is strange that so few regular prairie  
species occur about here, I have to see my first  
*Loxia* yet. The Woodpeckers, of which there  
are great numbers to quite a variety of species  
here during the summer, have all left with  
the exception of *Picus villosus harrisi*, which  
is rather common, & an occasional *Scaphis  
albobarvatus*. I found about half a dozen  
Winter wrens here a couple of weeks ago, but  
these seem to have gone also, but what sur-  
prised me most, was to find a covey of  
the California Valley Quail on the 6<sup>th</sup> of  
last month, within half a mile from the  
post in a young pine grove. I shot three  
of them, but only got two, a Bob's hawk  
taking the other one, but I got him before  
he got through with the bird. To  
have found the Mountain Quail would  
not have surprised me so much, but  
the Valley Quail is certainly out of

place here. No one as far as I can learn  
had ever noticed this species about here.  
On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of last month I shot a *Carpodacus  
cassini*, I saw a pair, this is also rather late  
for this species to remain. Even the Juncos  
have gone. Of the Melospizas there are  
a few left, but not many, two forms the  
true *fallax* & a darker one which I refer  
to *rufina*. The weather has not been cold  
yet & we have had but little snow in the  
valley. I am sure I saw a *Syr. fuscus*  
some time ago & the settlers say that there  
are White Throats here in the winter, which  
refers to this bird without a question, I hope  
that I may be able to get a pair or so  
before the winter passes. I have catalogued  
311 skins to date and 200 of these I  
have sent on to the Nat. Museum some  
time ago. I shall not ship anything further  
before spring.

Yours very truly  
Chas. Bendire.

the eastern Hope (presumably the Cascade mountains) are like those you send, i. e. without rufous tails, in which case a new form will have to be characterized. Since your birds are much too dark for umbelloides, while the true sabinii from the coast region is always (?) rusty colored. The only thing to determine is whether this difference is really geographical or whether the two phases of coloration occur together.

He writes the *Astur atricapillus* here. I think the bird you find here is this new race of Mr. Nelson's, which may be so, but the other form I am sure is found here although there are two races at all which I for one doubt very much.

On the whole I have not done as well as I expected. I found but few really rare winter birds here. Saw *Gyr-falcons* on two occasions but could not get a shot or trap them.

Fort Klamath Oregon  
March 28<sup>th</sup> 1883.

Mr. William Brewster.  
Dr. Sir.

Your favor of the 15<sup>th</sup> has been received and I am glad to hear from you again. The first box of skins collected by me at this place & forwarded to Washington in the latter part of October has finally reached its destination and Mr. Ridgway under date of Febr. 8<sup>th</sup> has written to me regarding the collection comprising 222 skins. I have fully as many more on hand now. He does not think that there are any new races amongst the lot but in enumerating certain specimens about which I wanted particulars

information, he expresses himself differently. All my specimens sent as *thumbeana* this time & I keep a duplicate Catalogue here of all the skins I make, which I have not done before. No 6 he calls *Melospiza fasciata* — & positively an undescribed race. The bill is slender like that of Latham but the colors are much too dark for that race. In fact the coloration is precisely that of *hermanni* but the specimen cannot be referred to the latter on account of slender bill.

No 143 same race. I give Ridg-ways exact words.

No 196 *Melospiza fasciata guttata*  
Nearly typical

No 24 *Tasserella iliea megarrhyncha*  
Nearly or quite typical

No 97 *Pasi schistacea* nearly typical but inclining somewhat toward *P. megarrhyncha*

No 20. *Myiodyces pusillus* not *fulviflatus* though approaching it some what.

No 122 *Tipito maculatus megalomys* approaching somewhat toward *oregonus* but much nearer *megalomys*.

No 55 *Zonotrichia gambeli* *intermedia*  
" 23 " *leucophrys*!

No 66 *Certhia familiaris occidentalis* very constant in its markings.

No 57 *Asalou columbarius* & juv  
" 190 " " *factult*

" 189 " *richardsoni* ♂ "

74 *Buteo swainsonii* juv unusually deep colored

48 } *Bonasa umbellus* *latined* (?)  
98 }  
45 } gray phase ?

In regard to the last he says. I find no new races however (speaking about the entire collection) unless it should prove that all the ruffed grouse from



Chicks also are unusually scarce about here. Took but two. But saturatus during the whole winter.

I find the *Asperiphona rufipennis* quite common about Linkville Cr. 40 miles south of here at least it was seen in large flocks by me on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst. feeding on the tender buds of willow. I hear that they breed in the mountains in the vicinity, at least are seen there in the summer & it is possible that I may find them & learn something of their breeding habits.

You ask me if I have the eggs of the Cal. Gulliver. No & am a standing offer of \$25.00 for well known specimens of their eggs for several years has so far failed to bring any. I am very glad to hear that Mr Allen is recovering & hope that he will fully regain his health.

Yours truly  
 Chas. S. Purdy

Capt. Bendin

Dec 28, 1883

I do not expect to spend another  
season here, after this one and shall  
most likely go east next fall.

very truly yours  
Chas. Bendire

I am glad to see that Mr. Allen  
is able to take charge of the Bulletin  
again, which shows that he must be  
getting better.

May 5<sup>th</sup> 1883

Chas. Bendire

Fort Klamath Oregon  
May 5<sup>th</sup> 1883.

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 15<sup>th</sup> ult. has been  
received. I am surprised to hear  
that Mr. Lawrence has not been able  
to get the duplicates you mention  
from the Smithsonian. I recollect  
very well that the last box did not  
go further than Washington & that  
you only examined the contents there.  
The distribution of these specimens rested  
with Mr. Ridgway & I am quite sure  
that I had written to Professor Baird  
& Ridgway both about the matter.  
Hell such a thing shall not happen  
again if I can help it. Your views  
about the Western ruffed grouse are

unquestionably correct. There is no such thing as two races of *Satini*. Amongst the specimens taken by me here are some which show more or less rufous, I shot a cock today which showed scarcely a trace of grey, but it was too badly mangled to make a skin. I have not taken any thing of any very great interest since I have written to you last. I am surprised to find the three races of *Passerillas* here 235 a + to to I guess Stejneger is right about that matter, they intergrade into each other I am satisfied of it now.

The Hooded Pigeons are remarkably well represented here I have taken the following here 360<sup>t</sup> common in winter, 361 rather rare, 366 tolerably common in winter, 367 seems to be a migrant taken late in fall or early in spring, but probably breeds in the vicinity, 369<sup>a</sup> rather rare but a single specimen taken so far in spring 369<sup>t</sup> rather common spring to fall & I think breeds here

370 not rare & probably breeds 371 breeds to is a resident a ♀ I have has the forehead of the head coffee brown each feather with a lighter border, is this not rather unusual I have never shot any of these birds before although I might have done so more than once, and am not posted on their normal plumage which is supposed to be black at that part 376 common summer resident, 378<sup>a</sup> a single specimen, 378<sup>b</sup> very common summer resident a less winter. This class the woodpecker tribe to I doubt if I write find any additional ones. Up to date I have made some 550 skins since coming to the post, but I have very little time to collect much and as soon as the egg season commences, in fact it has commenced already, but I have not taken anything yet, I shall not make many more skins, unless for identification. This would be an excellent field for collecting if I had the time.

Insects on the wing it resembles *Terris*  
*M. forquatus* very much.

The other new egg is that of *B. thy-*  
*roides* of which I have two fine sets.  
Both nests in decayed tops of late  
pine trees hard to get at. I shall  
try to find out if the seeds are marked  
so differently in first plumage.

Have been on the look out for young  
but have not seen any as yet. They  
are not at all plenty. *Picoides*  
*arcticus* I found breeding in a  
pine stump within two feet of ground.  
*Picus villosus harrisi* & *protuberans*  
*quadrimeri* in dead stumps only &  
*Melanerpes forquatus* & *costatus*  
& *M. marcanus* in stumps & pines.

On account of my absence from  
the post, I missed securing the eggs  
of *Glaucoedon anoma*. One of  
my men found the nest on the top  
of a pine & showed it to me on  
my return when it contained four  
young ones about 10 days old.

Capt. Bendire

July 2, 1883

Fort Klamath

Fort Klamath Or.  
July 2<sup>d</sup> 1883.

Mr. William Brewster.  
Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 28<sup>th</sup> of  
May reached me after my return  
from a trip to Ashland & Jackson  
ville Or. Both places situated on the  
western slope of the Cascade mountains  
in the Rogue river valley, and about  
80 miles due West from this as the  
Crow flies. On the summit of the  
Cascades I found the Oregon Jay  
*J. obscurus* quite common & at a place  
that I saw one of their nests after I  
saw the parents fly to the place several  
times & am sure that they were  
feeding good sized young. I did not

on June 11<sup>th</sup> The nest seemed to be  
a large bulky affair placed on top  
of a good sized limb of a red fir tree  
at least 8 feet from the ground and  
near the extremity of the limb. Clim-  
bing the tree was out of the question  
Or if even this could have been done  
the nest could not have been reached.  
I find that Killdeer Jay & Cassin  
finch both of which are quite common  
about the river, breed invariably in open  
the same way here. I know at least  
half a dozen nests of each within a  
radius of 300 yards from my house  
& not a single one is accessible.

But if I have not been successful  
in this line I have done pretty well  
amongst the Woodpeckers & have  
the eggs of two not described as yet.  
I am aware that the egg of *Speotyto*  
*varius ruber* purports to have

been found & described in History of  
Birds of N. America, but that egg is  
a fraud like a few others. I have  
fallen not less than 15 sets of this  
species & every set was cut out of a  
sound & green - open tree at various  
distances from the ground, but all in-  
variably in open trees & the holes  
were nearly all made this season.  
Its habits coincide precisely with  
those of *S. V. nuchalis* as observed  
by me in the vicinity of Camp  
Harney. I failed to see a single  
bird of this species in the Rogue river  
valley, there it was replaced by the  
Cal. Woodpecker - *Melanerpes for-*  
*micivora fairdi* which with several  
others is very common there. I saw  
the latter for the first time when  
in some of his holes. In  
its manner of flight & catching.

I took these & tried to raise them  
myself but failed, they all died, the  
first birds with which I failed.  
I send you by this mail the best  
one of the young ones so that nothing  
~~like~~ will happen like in Mr. Lawrence's  
case. While I do not wish you to  
mention it, that I have sent you the  
specimen at present. I enclose a  
description of the nest for  
publication in the Bulletin and  
as the first plumage is I believe  
still unknown you can describe this  
also as coming from me & no  
one will be able to mislead for  
the present. The young I send you  
is the best plumaged & cleanest in  
the lot.

Yours truly  
Chas. Bendire

Description of Nest & young of  
*Glaucidium gnoma*

During my absence from Fort Alamogordo between June 9<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 83 one of my men accidentally found the nest of this species. on June 30<sup>th</sup> 83. The nest was in an old woodpecker hole in a live *Aspen* tree about 20 feet from the ground, the cavity was a foot or inches deep and filled for about half the distance with feathers of various species of birds. When opened by me it contained four young which I took to be about ten days old these were feeding on a Chipmunk *Tamias asiaticus* *fundendi*? which was still warm. One of the <sup>two</sup> parents the ♀ was also secured at the same time. The tree in which the nest was found stood in an open and exposed position within 10 yards of the ~~the~~ one of the fuses of one of our target ranges which is in daily use. Although I searched carefully for traces of the ♀



egg shells I failed to find any other  
Overs. The plumage of the young is  
as follows.

---

They all died within a week from  
the time of capture & have been preserved.

C. E. Bendire

rest there is scarcely a trace of yellow  
on the belly. The bluish brown band be-  
low the throat is very faintly indicated  
& there is less white about the throat.

These descriptions I know are imperfect  
but I have not the time now to give them  
any better & compare all my specimens.

I shall send you one or two of these  
if you have not got them in your collection  
& I shall forward what skins I have  
on hand now, so that they wont arrive  
in Washington before I do so. Will  
then have some say about the matter  
myself. Am very sorry to hear that  
Prof. Allen is used up again.

Yours very truly  
Chas. Bendire

Chas. Bendire  
Aug 12, 1883

Fort Klamath Oregon  
August 12<sup>th</sup> 1883.

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. accompa-  
nying the receipt of the *Blauacidium*  
came to hand and I was glad to  
hear of its arrival, and am sorry to  
learn that you are somewhat under  
the weather. I have just applied  
for a leave of absence for six months  
with a view of leaving here about  
Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and if nothing prevents my  
going east, shall probably see you  
some time during the coming winter.  
As I think I have been rather  
successful with our Woodpeckers here

and have secured a number of the young of *Sphyrapicus varius ruber* in first plumage some out of the nest others that had been out some time, in fact I have a very good series of these. I have also a pair of young *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*, each in its characteristic plumage. The throat of the male is just commencing to show traces of the red stripe, in nestlings I think it is white. The yellow on the belly is only faintly perceptible. Otherwise there seems to be no difference between the young & adult males, excepting that the black is glossier in the latter.

On the young female *thyroideus* the pattern of coloration is the same as in the adult, but seems to me to be darker generally in the young, but I have no adult female at hand at present to compare with. The black seems to predominate on the belly & a dirty

whitish color showing scarcely any trace of yellow. This specimen was shot July 24<sup>th</sup>, the ♂ August 8<sup>th</sup>.

The young of *S. varius ruber* differ very much from the adults. The red is replaced by a dirty claret brown, white on the throat there is considerable white notication on the bases of the feathers below this again is a band of a bluish brown distinctly in contrast with the color of the top of head or cheeks, below this on the nuchal region the <sup>apical</sup> portions of the feathers are of a lighter claret brown it can't be called claret red each feather with a darker border

Belly considerably tinged with pale yellow other wise marked like adult. This is the color of a fully fledged nestling taken out of the nest July 14<sup>th</sup> another taken July 30<sup>th</sup> has changed considerably already. The red is more pronounced & a dirty

Capt. Bendir

Aug. 27, 1883

Fort Klamath Oregon  
August 27<sup>th</sup> 1883.

Mr William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

I have just received the invitation  
to attend a Convention of American  
Ornithologists to be held in New York  
City, about Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> 83.

I am sorry that I cannot  
be present, but if the meeting results  
in an American Ornithologists Union  
I want to join it from the beginning  
to remit to you the required fee for  
membership. I have already informed  
you I believe that I expect to start  
east in the beginning of October, if  
my application for a leave will be

granted and while east I hope  
to see you unless you expect to be  
away from Cambridge during the  
entire winter. The flight of Hawks  
has already commenced to come in  
and I have been getting one or two  
about every day for a week past.

Yours very truly  
Chas E Dendro

Capt. Brederin

Sept 7, 1883

Fort Klamath Oregon  
Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 1883.

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

I shall now in all probability  
leave here on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst, and in such  
a case I shall go direct to New York  
and will try to be there in time  
for the meeting. I have just finished  
packing up what skins and other  
specimens I have on hand and as I  
shall be in Washington before they  
will, I have put such as *Sintendia*  
for you in the same box. I shall  
request Prof. Baird not to have  
them opened, unless I am there.  
I have just found out that the ♂

[9/10/1850]

adult is an entirely different looking  
bird in the Summer plumage than  
in the Winter. I have no Winter specimens  
to compare it with at present, but  
I know that the difference is very  
marked. In the Summer plumage  
the yellow frontal band appears to be al-  
most entirely replaced by greyish brown  
a few yellow feathers showing only through  
these in a specimen shot a couple of  
days ago. The bird is moulting.  
The head neck & back is mixed  
greyish brown, rump olive green  
breast mottled whitish grey and  
olive green, I think the latter color  
is just coming out again with the  
new feathers. The bill is uniform  
brownish horn color. The bird is much  
lighter colored throughout in the  
Summer. I don't notice so much  
difference in the female. The young  
resemble the latter, ~~head and~~

cover parts uniform buff color.  
I can describe from memory  
as the birds are packed already.  
I got four, they were feeding in  
the tops of the highest pines and there  
is little doubt but what they breed  
in the vicinity. On my arrival  
in New York I shall stop at  
the Sturdevant House Broad-  
way & 29th street, if I find it is  
still kept, if not I shall change  
afterwards. Something may keep  
me from going as soon, as one  
of the Companies Stationers here, may  
be moved, which if the order comes  
before I get away, may keep me  
here a few weeks longer. I shall  
come east before Winter however  
at all events.

Yours very truly  
Chas. Bendire

The  
Ebbitt:

C. C. WILLARD, PROP.

Washington, D. C.

July 8<sup>th</sup> 1884

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your letter of the 3<sup>d</sup>  
was received several days ago and  
yesterday morning I received the  
box containing that set of Winter  
Wrens eggs. It is a beautiful set  
and I am ever so much obliged to  
you for them. I shall have two of  
them figured when we get at it.  
Nothing will be published yet for  
at least a year to come. After I get  
all through arranging everything &  
picking out the specimens to be figured  
I shall go to my new station in  
Montana & stay there to remain there  
at least a year. In the mean time  
careful measurements will be taken



of all the materials here, to which I shall  
back in the winter of '86 or '7. I shall  
commence publishing it not before.  
There is considerable work to be done, that  
some one else can do, but I want one year  
collecting in Argentina before I begin  
again here. When I come back I shall  
try to leave the service entirely to retire.  
I hope you will have a successful  
season up north.

Yours very sincerely  
Chas. A. Bendire  
Bendire

July 8, 1887

Chas. A. Bendire

Capt. Bendire  
Dec. 18-1884

below zero. We had seen snowing more  
or less today, but it does not seem to  
get any warmer for all that. Up to this  
time we have had scarcely any snow  
in what little time it has lasted, but  
now it looks as if it might remain  
in perhaps goodly quantities more plentifully  
than usual about the immediate vicinity  
of the post.

Sincerely yours  
Charles Bendire

Fort Custer Montana  
Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 1884.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

It is some time since  
I have heard anything from you  
and I should have written to you  
before this, but of all the places I have  
ever been stationed at, this as far as  
birds in the immediate vicinity are  
concerned, is the poorest of the whole  
lot. Only within the last ten days  
have I seen anything at all interesting.  
The cold weather has brought some  
Leucostictes in the best and quite a flock  
of Snow Buntings. The former seem all  
to be *L. leucocotis*. I have not seen any  
others amongst them as yet. Within the  
last two weeks I have shot three

Two whips I trust are the true air  
but as far as my memory serves me  
they seem to me to be paler than the  
true air not quite as light colored  
as *S. macrillae*, but between the two.  
The size is rather large. Two skinned  
were both ♀ and one I shot today I  
should call a ♂ but it is not skinned  
yet. Now that I have found them I shall  
get a good series. If this finds you at  
home & you wish me at once I will send  
it on as soon as I hear from you  
before letting any of them go to any  
one. I have asked Ridgway about  
the range of *Macrillae* as far as known  
a few days ago. When I shot the first  
one but have not heard from him yet.  
Today I got two *Gast. virginianus*  
*lutarcticus* one *Scops* and one *Spectab.*  
*acutica*, a pretty good day for birds.  
Besides the other two species mentioned  
an occasional magpie, some jay, dove

plenty of sharpshin and a flock of Wax-  
wings north there, with a solitary wood  
pecker on rare occasions. You have one  
flock of winter residents.

Speaking of woodpeckers reminds me  
of a very remarkably colored specimen  
I got about ten days ago. From its general  
pattern of coloration it comes near to *Picus*  
*villosus* than *harrisi*. The greater & lesser  
wingcoverts are of a rich maroon brown  
very glossy, the primaries are partly of  
the same color near base the tips paler  
fading to a rich ash grey near tip.  
The bird is a ♂, the occiput above the crown  
is tinged with the same shade as the wing  
coverts & the outer edges of the 4<sup>th</sup> tail-  
feather like wise. I don't know to whom  
to give this specimen it does not come  
exactly into Deans' fine series I would  
let him see it. He are having real  
winter at last. In the 10<sup>th</sup> it was  
- 27 and '10s *harrisi* has been plenty



How far is not considered old here  
and it has many accounts this month  
tying the matter but present  
and the first of 'with a copy of a  
to be the best week, but today  
I feel sure that better weather is getting  
stronger outside so that there is a prospect  
of being able to go out again. I will  
try and get some more papers, have  
but a little time in the evening now  
and this is not anything extra.

The day strikes me not to seem to  
be going to be a busy one, although  
I see some alterations made in  
the Garrison's house they are safe  
as no one is allowed to get in  
at the house. I may be able to  
do a good deal of work in the  
day, but I shall have to be  
very busy in the evening  
I shall be very busy in the  
evening.

I have done this more than once  
I see the paper is also  
here, have two that I have  
it brought by one of my men.  
I have not seen or heard any  
thing of the 2000 virginians affair  
the white paper says that if it  
is somewhere all the large boats  
they are taken there, no papers  
I have any in such demand for money  
they can't keep any for this at  
least no good suggestions. Every  
thing is done. I have sent everything  
will send the paper along  
soon.

Yours truly  
T. C. ...

Fort Custer - Montana  
Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> 1885

My dear Mr. Brewster.

I have at last packed a box of skins for you to enclose a list of them in this letter. The *Picus villosus* I will not give you out to out just now, you will see that the marking is not due to stains & nearly every specimen I got I have 2 others here shows traces of the same. Will you describe it under my signature in the full comparing it with your series, I don't want it known that you have it however.

The two *Gadus* represent the extremes in coloration as I find them here. I have another male perhaps a trifle lighter than the one I sent you, and one of the species you would have to make skins

has a white tinge, & is found in  
the largest bird I have seen here and  
evidently a very old one. It is his  
first one he wanted to keep it as an  
argument and could not persuade  
him to let me have it, for another.  
The two books are the best ones in the  
lot. The other two makes are perhaps  
a trifle heavier marked on the breast  
to show less vigorous. If you take a view  
of my got papers, but there are very  
nice specimens. The others I put in the  
box to fill up, and I think they will  
not be so valuable. I was not surprised  
to find the specimens in the  
box in the unusually cold weather  
then - 40° to 47°. It was but not  
impaired in perfect condition.  
It may last longer. I am now  
glad for a couple of Hierofalco  
melanurus polygynus, I may  
perhaps be able to get you a pair  
later on. I hope a nearly new

Wald Saturday. The herons are  
not here but are coming to come  
back also. I have not been able to  
see Tuosticks in large enough flocks  
to make it an object to send for  
a lot in the flesh. They are not nearly  
as plenty here, as I found them about  
Camp Harnoy. I mean to do not  
flock together they way they did  
there. We are having a little milder  
weather now in fact I am to see  
a few of the earlier migrants come  
along. Excepting the Gaggles, I  
could not see any more of the  
sent for about a complete list of the  
migrants residents down here, as  
as far as to me. Please let me  
know what you make out of the  
mgs. The low mgs are the best  
and as it would be much to  
send to friends I am going to



1875  
6  
Send it by express. I hope to go  
up to the High mountain mountains  
about Nov 1<sup>st</sup> & get some of  
the Kingbirds, grouse and other  
birds found in the pines. If the  
hope was to be permitted in the  
very future I wish you would  
describe them at once. I have three  
others left 2 ♂ & 1 ♀ which should  
satisfy the Nat. Museum.

Yours truly

Chas. S. Townsend

I find that no wagon  
will go to the rail road  
for several days so  
the box will probably  
be a week behind this  
letter

C.S.

Set of skins for the day  
Hillier - 1850

- 2 ♂ & ♀ *F. virginianus borealis*
  - 2 ♀ & ♂ *Scops asio kennicottii?*
  - 1 ♀ *Myctala acadica*
  - 2 ♂ & ♀ *Picus villosus*
  - 2 ♂ & ♀ *Tarus atricapillus septentrionalis.*
  - 4 ♂ & ♀ *Leucosticte tephrocotis*
  - 1 ♂ *Ceryle alcyon*
  - 2 ♂ & ♀ *P. phasianus campestris.*
  - 3 ♂ & ♀ *Amphisp. garrulus*
  - 1 ♀ *Ceryle alcyon*
  - 1 ♂ *Lanius borealis*
  - 1 ♂ *Timn. sparverius*
  - 1 ♂ *P. putescens*
- Total 23 skins.

The ♂ of *Picus villosus* so peculiarly  
marked, I reserve for the  
present for myself, please keep it  
however in your collection till I call  
for it.

C. Bendire

Capt. Bendire

Feb. 26. 1845

Capt. Bendire

5001 (36)

March 20, 1885

Fort Custer Montana

March 20<sup>th</sup> 85.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

I have just received your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst and am glad to learn that the skins are acceptable. In regard to the Fairy Woodpeckers I must say that I am quite surprised that both forms should be found here, the peculiar coloring seems to be found on all at least on the three specimens I have been able to get so far. I have a ♂ here but a very poor skin, which was skinned by Lieut. Boutelle of my regiment whom I am trying to interest in the matter. This specimen while not showing this peculiar coloring as much as the ♂ I sent you, already for examination shows considerably more of it than the ♀ you got. I have been on the look out for more of these birds, but have not been able to get one for nearly a month. The last

one was lost on Feb 23<sup>d</sup>. It is not a stain  
I am sure, but I would like to know  
what causes it, as it is found in all three  
specimens to some extent and presumably  
as well in others. On the large owls I see  
we agree. I have since writing to you  
obtained another female fully as light  
colored as the one I sent you and in the  
lot left, there is a male still a little  
lighter than the one you got. Mr Ridgway  
is particularly anxious to get Arcticus  
and I kept the specimen in that account  
there but are the only very good skins  
in the lot which I have left, all the balance  
are more or less badly injured.  
Arcticus is the more common type  
but the lighter form is found in both sexes  
as well, in fact the male I have left  
here, is the lightest one of all the large ones  
I have handled here, it is number and  
two others which I have seen, there also.  
Arcticus has. They have not commenced  
to lay yet I think, a female I got

on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst had one egg in her about  
the size of a marble and one small  
Poulet's dot on the 14<sup>th</sup> showed little enlarge-  
ment of the ovaries on that date. I pre-  
sume that they are just about commencing  
to lay now etc. I shall try to get a nest  
or two if possible. Do the Geese are  
has Willie I had an idea that they were  
not light colored enough for this race, but  
unless you have the immes to compare with,  
you cant be positive of anything. If that  
Centrocercus is the finest specimen you  
have ever seen, then you have not seen any  
in their prime and breeding plumage. I  
have one here about twice the size of the  
one I sent you and several others a good  
deal larger. The truth of the matter is  
the specimen that in that box was the  
smallest chick I had; the large ones would  
not commence to raise you I just put  
it in to fill up. The box I hope will







to try and get me a book is found  
now there is the best chance  
and I hope that he will look in  
some way, which I believe to be  
true. I will write to him your-  
self and it is more than possible that  
you could get some interesting things  
out of him. I don't think he knows  
very much about the value of the  
and is a beginner in the way of  
also that I have your address. I have  
had no dealings with him and I don't  
know anything about him. I think that  
the best it is to write to him  
but, don't mention what he has  
just said. I have your material.  
Please remember me to Mr. Allen  
when you see him.

Yours sincerely  
John G. Fisher

Capt. Bendire

April 6, 1885

a separated lot of horses  
 I think me to say by weight 700  
 2 ways to have another for tomorrow that  
 comes very near 700. I reckon I shall leave  
 them alone, these are the last I kill this  
 spring. You shall have one as good as  
 any you can get any place in this range.  
 They weigh more here, I think than in  
 Oregon. I hope you will get the next  
 to have the second one, I hope you will  
 get more than me. I am afraid that I  
 will not get much here, even the 3000  
 you go to show me. I can find a single  
 one of this sort & I have searched well.  
 I have been the cause of the death of nearly  
 two dozen of them to be sure I have no right  
 to expect anything better. I think that  
 I shall keep four horses here & send them  
 on first instead of putting them in with  
 the rest of the bunch, as Bridger would  
 want to keep in the good part.

Yours sincerely  
 C. W. Bendire

Fort Custer Montana  
 April 6<sup>th</sup> 1885.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup>  
 came to hand. I have not been able  
 to get any Woodcock here since I  
 wrote last. A few C. tables have  
 come but I have not kept a single  
 one for some time. He has had  
 remarkable fine & warm weather  
 till today, but it is changing rapidly  
 & I would not be surprised if they  
 be morrow morning. I should find  
 a couple of inches of snow. For  
 the mean temperature was 42<sup>nd</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>  
 and to see this morning the minimum  
 has been 30<sup>nd</sup> and the maximum 60<sup>nd</sup>  
 and the sun will be as a rule

It they have, I have failed to see them. -  
I think the first of them was *Dialis* -  
which I saw in 2 or 3 places, & to which  
*Corvus fragilis*, *Sayella vociferus*  
and yesterday I saw a single *Dryocopus*  
*superciliosus*. I have seen several flying over  
that could not make out, what they were  
and have also seen a few species of Ducks  
& Geese but got none. I have to see  
the first robin yet. We are evidently  
to have some good water yet. I have  
about the *Adiantum*. If the type of  
*Cambesitris* comes from the Red river  
waters which by the way is quite close  
to here, I think the water here that  
*Cambesitris* is found here so well -  
I may not have supposed that  
perhaps *Cambesitris* might be the bird  
of the mountain valleys & *Cambesitris*  
of the low country was held. -  
Halla Walla is a thin prairie -  
and I have seen a few birds

hundreds of miles from the mountains  
there as well as here. - The *Cambesitris* also  
is in a prairie or rather barbed country  
and you can see it that way. -  
The *Cambesitris* however is a regular mountain  
valley or park, and I think if the bird  
is found any further west. For the birds  
are like the Halla Walla ones, but  
the country is radically different, but  
between Halla Walla and this place there  
is much less difference. I have some  
9 or 10 more species here which I have  
hardly sent on to Grayson. I will  
send over five nice sets on the side, or  
you can get them from the Grayson  
business. The birds are the same as those  
to clean about the neck is the spring, but  
I have seen them, and it takes both time  
and patience to make a nice skin, but  
if you want them, you will see they  
are thoroughly done with attention -  
I will send you all the birds with

Capt. Bendire

April 17. 1885

Fort Custer Montana  
April 17<sup>th</sup> 1885.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

As there is a hostility  
of my having to get ready suddenly  
to leave for the Northern Army on  
account of the rail trouble I packed  
all the skins I had on hand and I  
enclosed <sup>in your</sup> the finest pair of *Centrocercus*  
*wrathianus* & the only ♂ *Talco-*  
*meicurus* & a good *Vireo* *harrisi*  
in a tin which I will ship shortly  
to the Nat. Museum at Washington  
No 765 is the *Talco-*

769 to 770 the ♂ & ♀ *Centrocercus*.  
The *Vireo* is wrapped in with the  
*Talco-*. The three birds have each  
a small paper stuck into the slit

The Lady which cannot be seen  
will not be supposed to the birds them-  
selves are tied up in cotton batting  
and labeled on the outside for you.  
There cant be any possible mistake  
made. The sagecock is a particularly  
fine specimen I think and besides  
the paper in the list, which you cant  
see, but have to feel for it, you can  
notice if the wire which was run through  
the bird to stiffen the skin runs out  
at one side of the list & is nipped off  
short. In all the others the wire is not  
visible. I want just to know if you  
get the birds I selected. The ♀ has the  
head turned side ways while it is straight  
in the male. The Falcon is nearly adult  
is the only one I have been able to get  
so far. Hope you will have success.  
Love truly, & with yours sincerely  
Wm. Brewster

Capt. Beedie

June 26, 1885

Fort Custer Montana  
June 29<sup>th</sup> 1885.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> has just reached me. In regard to the birds, I sent you amongst the lot sent to the Smithsonian I think that they had not reached there when you was there, and that the lot has not been opened yet, and is awaiting the return of Mr. Ridgway. It arrived there during his absence! Your birds are rolled in cotton batting & tied up and your name was placed on each parcel. I think there are three of these and I further believe I marked the birds by putting small pieces of paper in-

side of them where they were shamed  
to which cannot be seen without looking  
for them. I think as soon as you  
learn that, I may as well, it would  
be well for you to write to him  
about the cockatoo, they all have some  
name on them. I will write to him  
later in a day or two.

You ask what success I have had  
you to check off. As I expected this  
is a very high place to collect in &  
the greater portion of the birds breeding  
in the vicinity of the nest are very  
common but a good many eastern  
ones amongst them.

The only bird that really  
interested me is *Calamositta*.  
I find it tolerably common and look  
upon it as new to me. Next in  
interest to me was *Columba*  
*affinis* but I have seen a lot of it.

and that is about all. I others have  
taken a set each of *Capit. maculatus*  
*arcticus*, *Craspedus melanurus*, *Fulco*  
*brainsoni*, *Accipiter cooperi*, *Spizella*  
*breweri* and a lot tonight to me of my  
own that I can't positively identify.  
In other places I have more than once  
taken as many eggs in a day than  
here in the whole season. During the  
whole month of May & also this month  
I spent the mornings from 7 to 12  
a block on the far side range. I had to  
do it to keep my place with the balance  
of the companies here. There are nine  
here and I stand third last year. When  
I came here my company stood last  
and was behind even the second last.  
It took considerable hard work to get  
where I am & will take more to keep  
there till the end of the season. I could  
not devote much time to the birds now



aside from this the mosquitoes are very  
bad here & the buffalo mats are even  
worse. They could not even drill to  
work and where. The country is full  
of snakes & there seem to be a  
great many nests also. The other day  
while hunting for nests of *Calamagiza*  
*ficolor* I found two nests each one with  
a snake comfortably coiled upon it.  
They evidently had made a meal of  
the young. I shot both on a rather  
the other a *Thamnophis* but did not  
care to examine them closely. I have  
seen not the young in nesting places  
of *C. ficolor*. We have had some  
fine full storms here this summer  
to take it all in all it is a miserable  
country to be in, and I shall not  
regret leaving it.

Yours sincerely  
Chas. E. Townsend

Fort Custer, Montana  
July 12<sup>th</sup> 1895.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your of the 6<sup>th</sup> came  
to hand, and I am glad to hear that  
your collector has finally found the  
nest and eggs of *Colaptes Vainsoni*.  
The eggs being unspotted is rather curious,  
I should not have believed it and should  
have made a different guess. The season  
here is about over and as I stated  
in my former letter I have not done  
much. I have taken about 185 eggs  
all told and nothing rare amongst  
them. The eggs of *Chalchicomula bicolor*  
are about the best ones in the lot and  
I have a good series 12 sets of these

I devoted more time to this species  
than anything else as they have but  
a few eggs in the museum collection.  
I will find you a couple of the young  
in the first plumage & will also try  
not to get some the young of *Crossopelta*  
*peruanus* & *Chilo* species. I presume  
you are of the latter, the former however  
is a species I can believe a rare find  
here. I know that Ringway has un-  
packed that box of birds, in which yours  
are & presume he has sent them to  
you by this time. I wd I wish  
you would let me know. I shall  
look for the article about *C. peruanus*  
in *Ibis* & *Audubon* with a good deal  
of interest.

Yours sincerely  
Chas. E. Bendire

July 12, 1875

Chas. E. Bendire

Fort Custer, Montana  
July 14<sup>th</sup> 85.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

I have just received  
four sets of the Thrush, fleeing nest  
4 eggs of *T. bairnseni*. I have  
included it in a letter to Prof. Baird  
& asked him to purchase them for  
the Nat. Museum collection. If I  
still had my eggs, I would not  
hesitate a moment, but as the case  
stands, I think they have gotten enough  
out of me already by the letter, able  
to have the price asked, which is by no  
means, unreasonably high, I am.

I have written to tell you that  
four birds, just as they were

if you have not yet then it is  
I am with you in every way

Yours truly  
John A. Howard

July 14, 1885

Capt. Bennett

Fort Custer - Montana  
August 4<sup>th</sup> 1885.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult. has just come to hand & I am pleased to learn that you have at last received those birds from Mr. Kidgway. The 1st pair of Sage grouse will be hard to match, if you got the ones I selected for you. One one if you find a small piece of paper tucked into the side of body where the opening was made, there should be a small piece in all the larger birds.

The Falcon sent you of my memory serves me (No 765 of my series of shot Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 85) is what

I call nearly adult, but not quite.  
According to my idea the fully adult  
bird, looks very much as far as coloration  
is concerned like an old Circus  
hudsonicus in the light pearl blue  
plumage. The finest bird of this  
kind I ever had I gave to Mr.  
Robert D. Lawrence, Flushing Long  
Island and he undoubtedly has it  
still in his collection, and would  
willingly loan it to you for com-  
parison. The next best I took is  
in the Collection of the Museum  
at Cambridge, I sent it to Mr.  
Allen with a few other specimens  
some five years ago, & I think it is  
mounted. Mr. Ridgway saw the  
bird Lawrence got from me and  
said it was the finest he ever saw.  
I may be wrong but I think the older  
the male gets, he becomes lighter colored

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and the lower parts almost pure  
white with but few near-throated mole  
spots on the breast & sides. I am  
writing this from memory the spots on  
the breast may be differently shaped  
but I know they become much smaller  
as there are fewer of them.

Since sending you that  
specimen I have taken another also  
a ♂, but a comparatively young bird  
perhaps in his 3<sup>d</sup> year. On it a  
few of the State Blue feathers on  
the back are commencing to show.  
The nest moult would probably  
make quite a difference in the  
look of that bird. It is not a  
very good specimen however, but  
you can also have him if you  
want the bird. I enclose a note  
from Prof. Baird which I got a day  
or two before your letter. I hope the



Next 4 eggs had not been taken in  
the Milan firm, and that I will get them.

Yours sincerely  
Wm. C. Dindro

Aug. 4. 1855

Wm. C. Dindro

Fort Custer, Montana  
Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> 1885.

My dear Mr. Brewster

Your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult. from Point Lepreau N. B. came just in time. I had forgotten all about the Prairie falcon I had promised you to send but it in a box containing this seasons collecting of eggs & a few skins, already packed & about to be mailed up. I have taken it out & will send it to you shortly. The nest & eggs of Brainsons Warbler reached Washington all right. Miss Perkins thought it would be quite an interesting bit of news for me & gave me

quite a good description of both.  
Do the eggs of this species seem to be  
spotted after all in some instances  
as was to be expected. I shall not  
say anything about this nest to  
any one, as you desire.

It would be a pity if Mr. Hayne  
had to give up his investigations in  
the South, but I know well enough  
that there can't be any money in it.  
Without having something else to do  
at the same time. I made but  
very few skins during the summer  
and none for the past month.

We lost our Colonel by death a  
few months ago & the new ones do  
many innovations to make that an  
officer can get but little time  
for other pursuits. I shall try  
to leave the service although after  
this fall if they will retire me.

-11-

I have been in now over 30 years  
and been all the want of Army  
life. I shall make application  
for retirement about the middle  
of this month and if I can get  
out, shall be in Washington by  
December. There will be no trouble  
if Secretary Endicott is willing  
as he could retire me on length  
of service alone, not taking in  
account injuries I received while  
in the Army.

Yours sincerely  
Chas E. Smith

Capt. Bendire

Sept 4-1885

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 1886

My dear Mr. Brewster,

Your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> came to hand. The only specimens of nests & eggs we have in the National Museum Collection are those collected by Mr. Canthus about Cape St. Lucas, and all of these are ent. flown and practically worthless. Then there is a small collection of Mr. Belding's from that region comprising about 8 of the common species found in that section, all land birds and none rare. Almost any drift flown eggs & nests that are not too fulky and large will be extremely desirable particularly all the water & shore birds found in that section along the coast & adjacent islands. It is more than probable that Mr. Traylor would find *Larus hutchinsoni* breeding somewhere along

that Coast. The only egg we have of that species  
is a badly broken one sent by Col. A. J. Grayson  
& collected near Mazatlan, Mexico. How there  
are such species as *Puffinus gavia*, *P. griseus*  
*P. cinereus*, *Halocysterna micromosa*, *Oceanodroma*  
*Melania* & *O. homochroa*, *Cymodroma*  
*grallaria*, *Phaethon aethereus*, all the Cormorants  
found in that section, *Fregata aquila*, *Brachyrhamphus*  
*hypoleucus* & *B. Craveri*, in all likelihood breeding  
in suitable localities on the coast & in colonies,  
where a goodly number of specimens could be  
obtained at one time, if the breeding places are  
found out. Nearly half of their eggs are unknown  
or else represented by but few very poor specimens  
and that in but one or two collections? They all would  
be quite valuable. The same applies to nearly  
all the land birds, with very few exceptions, their  
eggs would be new to almost all collections

II

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

excepting ours in the National Museum.  
I have underlined the most desirable species  
in Delaings paper which I send by Mail at  
the same time as this. The Wire Stawts we  
use for the exhibition of Nests were made  
by Messrs. Hood, Sherwood & Co. Lowell  
Mass & are quite cheap. The Hooks are bronzed  
pine & made here. I have only a few of the  
larger size Wire Stawts here which would take  
up too much room, but have a requisition  
in for smaller ones, and will send you some  
as soon as I get them. The Liquid India  
Ink is made by Hinson & Norton, London  
England & Mr. Sherman tells me, he buys it  
at a Stationary Store here, but has none  
on hand. If you find that they dont keep



if in Boston I will send you a bottle, as  
soon as I hear from you again. I don't  
know that I am able to give you any suggestions  
respecting an egg collecting outfit on a large  
scale, excepting to suggest that beside the  
assortment of drills & two or three Hornpipes  
you would instruct Mr. Tragan to be careful  
about washing the inside of specimens well with  
water particularly plain colored eggs, after  
emptying contents & for that purpose I would  
add to the outfit two or three small sized  
rubber syringes, the point of one of them need  
not to be inserted into the egg but by holding  
it  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from & over the hole, enough water  
can be injected at one time to insure thorough  
cleaniness inside & insects will not find anything  
to work on afterwards, which they invariably  
will find if the egg is not thoroughly cleaned.

III

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

When first taken. I would further suggest to wash off any stains on the outside, while the specimens are fresh, they can be removed easily then and they look much better. No doubt he knows all about this. I think that you will obtain good results from this expedition and that you could not have selected a better man for the purpose, but I should think he should be on the ground by Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. Some of the birds breed very early & collectors are usually too late. A lot of Rose sparrow-bills eggs received lately were taken Jan 16<sup>th</sup> near Key West Florida. I got them from Traylor in exchange & I would think that birds in Lower Cal. would commence laying fully as early as in Florida. Yrs truly  
O. A. Bendire

Capt. Brewster

Dec. 9 - 1886

In re James Earl et  
al - et nominis rest

Harold

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 86.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

If you have not already obtained a set of the egg stands from Messrs Sherwood & Co, Lowell Mass, I can send you the samples from here, as I just received a new supply of the same sizes this morning. Wishing you & Mrs. Brewster a happy New Year & many returns.

Sincerely yours

Chas. D. Bendire

By the way Mr. Ridgway tells me that you also intend to send a collector to the Sierra Madre in Sonora Mexico. If you do I suppose he will go in from the Arizona side & as I know a few of the officers at Fort Huachuca the most southerly

post only a few miles from the Mexican line  
as but 8 miles from the railroad I might be  
of help to him with letters particularly as  
I have met Lieut. Denison 4<sup>th</sup> Cav who  
is stationed there since I saw you last.  
C. B. P.

Capt. Baudin  
Dec. 29. 1886

## UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 87

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Yours of 8<sup>th</sup> inst. just

received. It is possible that Mr. Capron will not find Lt. Benson at Fort Huachuca before the end of the month as he is out on leave of absence. The Sonora valley near old Camp Crittenden but a short distance from Huachuca would also be an excellent place for him to collect, but while there he should be very careful not to sleep out doors at night & take a lot of quinine along, as it is a very malarious section, but almost unexplored. It will be a good idea for him to take a couple of ounces of quinine along anyhow, he will need it in all probability & out there he would have to pay dear for it.

While east here it can be bought for \$150 an ounce.  
A few Comp. Cathartic Pills will also be very useful.  
Yes I should like the set of *Erwinomys* *montanus*  
eggs as well as those of *Tiphia alleyi*, which  
we have not at all, also *Lunco hyemalis*  
*Carolinensis* & anything you may have to spare  
from the south. I will make it up to you  
in arctic eggs when you get ready once  
to arrange your collection.

Yours sincerely,  
Chas E Bendire

Capt. Bendire

Jan. 10-1887

In re exchanges

## UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

2/25/87

My dear Mr. Brewster.

I am not aware that there has ever been any description published of the nest & eggs of *D. Arnsundii*, although I am as positive as can be that I have a genuine set of eggs of this species in my collection since 1875. I found a nest & three eggs on June 7<sup>th</sup> to some 12 miles from Camp Larney near the head of a small stream in the Blue Mts Oregon. Saw both parents but had nothing as near as I remember to shoot with. My notes are over in my house & I am writing this at the office. At any rate I failed to get the parents & the set is marked not positively identified. Ground color pale creamy buff



or greyish white, with numerous spots & blotches  
of lilac & pale grey principally about larger  
end. Nest placed between several Willow shoots  
near the main trunk of a Mountain Willow  
about 5 feet from ground. Locality marshy  
spot on side hill near the head of a canon  
and source of a small mountain stream.  
The eggs are a trifle smaller than those of  
*Striata* & resemble certain types of this  
species more than anything else. I am  
pretty well satisfied they are right.  
See Bouvier's advertisement them at \$3<sup>00</sup> but he  
also advertises other species that he is very un-  
likely to have. L. Benson & Company to  
whom I gave you that letter for Mr Cahoon  
has already sent in some good things.  
About 1/2 dozen each of *Colinus ridgwayi*  
& like number of *C. elegans* found in the

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WASHINGTON

same locality, heretofore only on record  
from Hartzattian. This is some 500 miles from  
latter place. Caborn went out with Denton  
& I presume got the same species, likewise  
you probably have heard from him before this.  
It seems to me, if he could get over on the  
eastern side of the Sierra Madre, he would  
be in an entirely unexplored region & could  
follow the mountains down almost to the coast,  
starting say from about Janos, which is on  
all the old maps & near our boundary line.  
He ought however to do well wherever he collects  
in that region, but the side referred to  
is more isolated than the west side.  
Have you heard any good sincere  
thing from either of our Ch' C. Bendire  
or Grayson.

Capt. Brewster

Feb. 25-1887

In R. A. Townsend

(over)

## UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

March 3<sup>d</sup> 87

My dear Mr. Brewster.

I guess I made the mistake, but now since I came to look for your postal card I see I did not. The same remarks apply to *D. occidentalis*. I have a set of these eggs taken at the Big Meadows on the banks of the Deschutes river near its head waters on my way from Fort Walla Walla W.T. to Fort Klamath Oregon June 12<sup>th</sup> 82. Nest placed in crotch of a willow overhanging water & parent shot, but falling into the river & carried away. The eggs have a faint greyish green ground color, two of them are heavily spotted & blotched with lilac & dark umber brown, about the size of *D. astiva* & resembling the eggs of *D. Hackburnia*.

with exception of ground color, they were not  
 being so perceptible than in D. Blackburnia  
 J. Allen says they are it, I think he can  
 be safely relied on. I should like to see  
 them once. I have just got a letter from A. Benson  
 this morning written on the 23<sup>d</sup> ult. He  
 says "I took Mr Cahoon with me into Mexico  
 & he intends to go down again after a while.  
 I do not know what he is doing now, whether  
 he is succeeding in getting many specimens.  
 The nest of P. Alleni came all right.  
 I thought I had mentioned it. That  
 elegans fuscicornis at Ridgway is going to call it,  
 it is a perfectly good subspecies I think.  
 He got some skins from Mr. Lawrence & the  
 differences hold good.

Yours etc  
 Chas C Bendire

Capt. Bendire's  
 no. 311  
 Oct 31 1878  
 vol. 3, 1878

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

April 29<sup>th</sup> 87

My dear Mr. Brewster.

I can spare you lots of the following species, but not more than 3 eggs in all & possibly only two, as I have not looked them over carefully. They write the Side Horns, but the hole may be rather large. Your Man can't get any better North American Traders eggs from anybody else.

*Thalasseus fulvicanus*

*Lophus hyperboreus*

*Charadrius dominicus*

*Tringa rufescens*

*Actodromas minutilla*

*Actodromas maculata*

} then are not first class.

Will do the best I can for you  
Yours sincerely  
Ch<sup>d</sup> E. Bendire

Wm. Bendire

Jan. 29. 1887

# Smithsonian Institution

S. P. LANGLEY, Secretary  
G. BROWN GOODE, Assistant Secretary,  
in charge of U. S. National Museum

Washington, D. C. Dec 23<sup>d</sup> 1887.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

The eggs I should like to have for the Museum Collection are the following.

*Melanerpes angustifrons.* 1 set

*Crotophaga sulcirostris.* 1 set

*Chamaepelia p. pallidus* 1 set only

*Poliophtila caerulea* 1 " "

*Columba fasciata* 1 egg

That you heard about H. G. Parker is true. I presume, he certainly acted very dishonestly in some of his dealings with other collectors, taking advantage of their ignorance, manufactured wrong data to eggs, sent out common eastern species for rare ones, which were sent to me for to identify afterwards.



Chas. E. Bendire.

Dec. 23-1887.

for instance eggs of Fish hawk for Gyr Falcon  
with an elaborate description of nest in his  
own handwriting. He acknowledged the de-  
ception afterwards & has parted with his  
collection since, the best thing he could do.  
I was as badly taken in, in the young man  
as anyone. With you & Mr. Brewster a very  
happy & merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely  
Chas E Bendire

## UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 89

My dear Mr. Brewster

It is some time since I have  
 seen & heard anything from you and I presume  
 you are pretty busy. There seems to be at last,  
 a fair prospect to get at any rate one volume  
 as a starter on the Nests & eggs of our birds.  
 Prof. Silliman has concluded to have the illustrations  
 drawn by as good an artist as we can find here  
 & the plates are to be reproduced by chromo-litho-  
 graphy in the best manner. Under these conditions  
 I shall begin on the text at once, but before making  
 any start want your advice about the scope of the  
 work & general ideas. There is no one who is better  
 qualified than you to give advice in this matter than  
 you. I have spoken with Mr. Ridgway & Dr. Merriam  
 about the matter & they concur with me in my idea

I mean to begin at the Sandbirds first & commence according to the A. O. U. Code & checklist at No 289 - the B. P. White & take in everything including all the Owls. As in all likelihood Congress will have to be asked for an appropriation, the first Volume should be as interesting as possible & this arrangement would certainly include about the most popular families, far more so than beginning with the waterbirds. Besides this appear to you.

V. Ingersoll  
to make waterbirds

In the matter of illustrations say for instance the eggs of *Dendragapus obscurus* & the two subspecies I have but two single eggs of *obscurus*, and but few of *richardsoni* & none <sup>are</sup> nice specimens, while of my own collecting of *fuliginosus* I have quite a good series. In talking this matter over with Henshaw & Ridgway, the former suggested to pick out the different types of this latter form & as the eggs of all are practically alike, to say that the same variations would probably hold good amongst the others, if there was an equally good series to select from. I must admit that Henshaw's idea is a very practical & sensible one & like it.

There seems to be a great deal of difficulty to get  
the correct ground birds, even in such simple eggs  
as these groups, and the drawings I guess will  
be rather expensive if perfectly accurate ones  
are insisted on & that is what I want. In the  
matter of the text I believe it should be as full  
as possible to treat somewhat about the habits  
of the birds too, food etc, the various modes  
of nesting, average no of eggs to a set, with mention  
of unusually large ones as well, provided they  
are authentic & breeding range. This would  
make a pretty good sized volume. I should be  
extremely obliged for any notes you can supply  
& that would not be a few, if you have the time  
to spare for that. As far as the eastern species are  
concerned I shall have to a great extent to depend  
on more or less assistance, as my own observations  
amount to very little, but there is considerably  
on record to help out. How about Tympanuchus  
cupidus. I suppose there are no genuine eggs of  
that in existence & for that matter the birds are  
gone as well. The last article on the Passenger  
Pigeon covers that bird pretty well, and that on  
Donurus Carolinensis is equally interesting.

You have a way of finding out things, that but few  
possess. Now please give me your views honest-  
ly & dont be afraid to differ in opinion, I value  
yours as much as any ones & make such sug-  
gestions as you think will cover the case best  
- I say you will help me. Sincerely yours

Chas E. Pender

Dec 9. 1889

Capt. T. Pender

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Dec 27<sup>th</sup> 89

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Yours of the 17<sup>th</sup> came to hand in due time, and I thank you for your suggestions. I think all the points you make are well taken, and had before hearing from you acted on one already. That is where you advise figuring eggs which show the range of variation within the group, regardless of their individual identity. That is the only way to do it. As for the scope of the work I was expected to write the full history of each species, I shall have more than I want to do, simply to describe the birds habits during the breeding season, its nests & eggs & breeding range correctly as far as I know it. I must try to get copies of Lists from different States (local lists) where any have been published. Your 3<sup>d</sup> point in describing eggs, comparisons with eggs of allied species being of the utmost importance

I certainly think it well worth doing & I shall use  
the hint wherever possible. And your 4<sup>th</sup> one on  
Illustrations that prediction of yours about having  
trouble enough has already come true. Two of the  
parties that have been excellent critics about some  
<sup>expressions</sup> stated that have been made years ago & now used  
and Africa their hands themselves & could not do half  
as good work, are disgusted because I would not  
have them. Now I am trying Ridgways brother  
but have not seen any of his work yet. I believe  
however that he will do good work, if not I dont  
know who to get. Yes I should like to get one of  
the Eggs of Tympanuchus Cupido to figure.  
I knew you were pretty busy & I did not expect  
to get much help from you & will not trouble  
you any more than I can help. Do you know any  
reliable parties from whom I would be likely to  
get interesting information. I shall soon send  
out circulars with questions to safe later, and  
after waiting a reasonable time for answers  
put together what I have. I shall probably  
not get beyond the first volume, at any rate  
by the time I have that ready I can take better  
if I have energy enough for the others.

#

No, I have not worried over those eggs from  
Lower Cal, and if I remember rightly there  
are none amongst them, that would be included  
in this 1<sup>st</sup> Volume, unless a Pigeon or so.

I hope that fashionable Grippe which according  
to this evenings paper is just raising Cain in  
Boston will not trouble you or Mrs Brewster.  
At any rate I wish you a happy & prosperous  
New Year and many returns of the same.

Sincerely yours  
Chas E Bendir



Capt. Bendin

Dec. 27. 1889

Chas. E. Bendire.  
July. 8. 1890.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 91.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

If you will kindly send me  
the specimen of *Tympanuchus Cupido* for  
figuring, I shall be much obliged. I am ready  
for it now. Will you also enclose data where taken,  
etc. I will take good care of it & return when  
the drawing is made. I enclose a few francs.  
If not too much trouble an egg of *Columba  
fasciata nigra*? I have no list over here, but you  
will know the bird I mean from Lower Cal. It  
also be needed shortly & might be sent at the  
same time. I would also be much obliged  
to you, if you would tell me the present  
status of *Colinus virginianus* in northern  
Mass. its relative abundance and at what place  
found in Southern Vermont New Hampshire and

Maine. I want to define its range as accurately  
as possible & I know you are better posted on that  
than any one else in New England. I am  
having trouble with getting good & accurate  
drawings, but am following your advice &  
will have none till perfectly exact.

Yours sincerely  
Chas E Bendire  
Curator etc

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 1890.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your favor of the 10<sup>th</sup> and the box containing the egg of Heath hen & Vioasca Pigeon came to hand. The eggs are in good order, and I shall take the full care of them. The Vioasca Pigeon egg is considerably smaller than those of the Bandtailed Pigeon from Arizona. Their measure as follows  
 $162 \times 110$ ,  $168 \times 104$ ,  $158 \times 110$ ,  $169 \times 109$ ,  $162 \times 113$ ,  
 $152 \times 110$ . Your egg measures  $145 \times 100$  inches.

In my book I shall use metric measure.

Many thanks for information on *Colinus*.

Yours sincerely  
 Chas. E. Bendire  
 Corvath etc

Chas. C. Bendire

Feb 14. 1890

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

March 20<sup>th</sup> 90.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

I am just now trying to define the range of typical *Bonasa umbellus*, and as you know as much about the northern limits of this bird I would consider it a great favor if you give me your views on the subject. I enclose two sheets one on which I give the range of typical *B. umbellus* & another of *B. umbellus togata*. Please return them to me with such corrections & suggestions as you deem pertinent. I value your opinion in such matters as much as any one's. Of course it is utterly impossible with our present knowledge to define lines perfectly accurate & between races like in *Bonasa*, *Dendragapus* & others there must necessarily always be a zone where the birds are intermediate. In defining the <sup>northern</sup> range of *Bonasa*

Charles C. Bendire.

March 20. 1890.

umbellus, I have ~~not~~ mentioned Southern Ontario,  
we have no specimens from that region in the collection  
here, but I should think typical umbellus should be  
found there. Have you any material from that  
region & can you tell me? On examining all my  
specimens of the Ruffed Grouse from Klamath and  
Walla Walla I find that they are all very typical  
*B. togata* & not one approaches any way close  
to *Satimii*. Will you kindly look over the specimens  
I sent you & give me your present opinion. You  
referred them to *Satimii* at first. I should like  
very much to hear from you as soon as possible  
as I am going to wait for your report on this  
before going further.

Very truly yours  
Charles C. Bendire  
Curator Zoological Dept.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

May 9<sup>th</sup> 90

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Will you please and look over  
the Goshawks I sent you from the West,  
and tell me which species you refer them to.  
Those I took at Fort Klamath, of which several  
are here are all *Ariatulus* but I believe  
those from Walla Walla <sup>Walla Walla</sup> and Carny <sup>Camp</sup> if you <sup>Oregon</sup>  
have any of the latter are typical *atricapillus*.  
I am just writing up these two and want to  
make sure. I took eggs at Carny 40 miles  
south of Walla Walla. Dr. Merritt shot a handsome  
adult male at Fort Klamath about 84 which I  
believe you have also. What species is he referable  
to.

Yours Sincerely  
Chas E Bendire  
Curator Zoological Dept.



Chas. E. Bendire

May 9. 1890

~~Atricapillus~~

~~Atricapillus~~

No	7674	♂ ad	Walla Walla	Jan 7-82	Bendire	typical
	7676	♀ juv.	" "	Oct. 14-81	"	"
	7675	♂ "	" "	" 27 "	"	not typical

~~Atricapillus~~

	19799	♂ ad	Klamath	Merrill	Feb. 11-87	typical
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Chas. E. Bendire

July 25. 1890

THE ROCKINGHAM  
NARRAGANSETT PIER, R.I.  
J. G. Burns, Prop'r.

July 25<sup>th</sup> 90

My dear Mr Brewster.

Your favor of the 24<sup>th</sup> received. I believe that Mr. Dennis Gate has skins of the Western Saw-whet and Mr. Th. A. Jackson may have one or two also. If you do not care to write to them yourself, I will write ask them to send what material they have to you. I can't tell where my Garry Skins are, but I believe you have one or two of them, and the balance are probably in the Nat. Museum. I will send

five or six there. It would be  
strange if the western bird should  
prove true acadica to the Pocky

Mr. from a different race. I  
remember now that Mr. H. Tracy  
may possibly have one or two of these  
skins too. Will you be back at  
Cambridge about August 17<sup>th</sup> if  
you are I will run up and  
stay a day at Boston and look  
over your collection. I had a  
notion running up to Martha's  
vineyard myself on the same  
quest, but gave it up. I hope  
you will get some definite in-  
formation about the number

of birds still left there and put  
it in time for me to use  
some of the information.

Sincerely yours  
Chas C Bendire

Chas. E. Bendire

Aug. 8. 1880.

THE ROCKINGHAM  
NARRAGANSETT PIER, R.I.  
J. G. Burns, Prop'r.

August 8<sup>th</sup> 1880.

My dear Mr Brewster

Yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> has  
just come to hand. I will write  
to Mr Gale to ask him to  
send you his Owls for examination  
As I am awaiting an answer  
from friends of mine in Northern  
New York I cannot definitely  
state the day when I shall be  
in Boston, and as you will not  
be there at any rate about that  
time, I do not wish to put you

As the trouble of coming there  
rest on my account. The <sup>new</sup>  
items you may have picked up  
about the Heathen, will be in  
ample time for my use, if they  
are published in the Set. Ac.

Mr Jackson or rather Hoopes,  
have already sent you some of  
the Small Owls, the latter purchased  
from Poling for investigation  
at least so the former writes  
me. I presume you have heard  
from Poling. I believe he has  
taken a number of rare  
birds & eggs as well, if his

identifications can be relied  
on. I expect to have here  
not earlier than the 18<sup>th</sup> and  
possibly not till the 23<sup>d</sup>

Sincerely yours  
Chas E Bendire

Chas. E. Bendire.

Nov. 26-1890.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> 90.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Will you please and let me know if you have either the eggs of *Aratinga anthracina* or *Buteo abbreviatus* in your collection from Mexico & if you have will you please and let me examine them & give me such notes as you can about them.

The average measurement of twenty seven specimens of the eggs of the light colored *Megascops asio kennicotti* is  $37\frac{5}{8}$  by 32. The largest egg of the series measures 39 by  $33\frac{5}{8}$  the smallest 35 by  $31\frac{5}{8}$  mm. I enclose a frank for the eggs, if you have any to send.

Yours sincerely  
Chas E Bendire  
Curator Zoological Dept

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Dec 2<sup>d</sup> 90.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your favors of the 25<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> ult. came to hand. The average measurements of 56 eggs of *Megascops asio*, is 35<sup>5</sup> by 30 mm. The largest egg of this series from Temauke Wisconsin measures 38 by 31, the smallest from Washington D C 32 by 29<sup>5</sup>. The average measurements of twenty six specimens of *Megascops asio hendersoni* is 35 by 30 mm. The largest of these eggs from near San Francisco Cal measures 36 by 32, the smallest Vicario Cal 32 by 28 mm. Bennett thought also he had the eggs of one of these Hawks from Mexico but they turned out like mine to be those of *Merula flagiata*. To see such a large Covey of Hens evidently the old birds with young brood of H. the average number of eggs usually laid by

The Western species is certainly encouraging and  
looks hopeful for their preservation for some  
time yet at least. Many thanks for the trouble  
you have taken trying to hunt them eggs up.

very sincerely

Chas E Bendire



too late to have happened. Then  
again, labels I know have been mixed  
up, & the wrong ones placed on other  
birds. In looking through the  
Dusky Horned Owls we found a  
plain case of this not so very long  
ago. I am just as confident  
as I can be that the so-called  
Boise (Idaho) specimens never  
came from there, and that it is  
a bird from the coast and I be-  
lieve you will find Ridgway of  
the same opinion. I never had  
an idea that you supposed the birds  
from the interior were larger  
than true Kennicottii. I don't

Washington D.C.  
Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 1890.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your favor of the 24<sup>th</sup> received and  
contents noted. I do not believe for  
an instant that you would find enough  
difference in size, between the darker  
North west Coast form of Kennicottii  
and the birds from the interior of  
the same regions to warrant you  
to separate the two plumages on  
the strength of size, in fact I do  
not believe there is any; but I  
think a separation on the strength  
of their color is perfectly admissible  
just as much so at any rate as  
making two races of *Callipepla Cali-*

formica and *Oreortyx pictus* which present an exactly similar state of affairs. Now you might say, Well what about that Idaho specimen which is as dark as the Coast birds. I do not believe that this bird ever came from Idaho (supposed to have come from Boise). I am writing this at home and have no books here, but if I remember rightly that specimen came from a Doctor Whitehead from Boise City, at least that is what the label says. Dr. Whitehead who has been dead for some years was an Army Surgeon and on duty out there when I was. He never was stationed at Boise, but was at either old Fort Stephens or Campy at the mouth of the Columbia river, and it is from

one of these points that bird comes from. In writing up my article on this race I looked over the birds with Ridgway and we talked about this matter then. If all the old Catalogue records are to be taken as correct there would be many a nice mess. I have eggs entered and in either Baird's or Brewer's handwriting of *Callipepla Californica* from Halifax N.S. but that certainly does not prove that they were laid there at least not in a wild state. If the Records of the Birds were not kept any more accurate than those of the eggs, and they were kept and entered by the same parties, such mistakes of locality are easily accounted for, and only

Believe there is any difference; both  
 forms however are much larger  
 than any of the other Screech Owls.  
 Has Wells coming next in size.  
 Sent separate them simply to please  
 me unless you are fully satisfied  
 they should be, but if this thing holds  
 good in one case, that of color  
 it should in another also. I took  
 one of these Owls at Camp Hammy  
 Oregon in 77 which was a light  
 colored specimen too.

Yours sincerely  
 Chas E Bendire

Chas E. Bendire,

Dec. 26 - 1870.

Chas. E. Bendire

Jan'y. 6. 1891.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 1891

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your of the 3<sup>d</sup> only reached me at noon today, although I have been at the office yesterday. I showed your letter to Ridgway and know myself that the box of specimens of Remicott's Owl you asked for were promptly packed and sent by him and should have reached you before your letter was written. I am surprised at that difference in size and supposed there would be but little if any between the Alaska and the Southern Coast forms. As it is I presume that it will be quite proper to make two subspecies *Remicott's* from Alaska which I guess is the bird that must retain this name. While you are at this family you might possibly be able to get that specimen Prof. Macoun took at Bistle in the province of <sup>Western Manitoba</sup> ~~Alaska~~, Canada. Chamberlain who quotes

this under *Megascops asio* in his Canadian  
Bird Catalogue is <sup>likely</sup> wrong in that. This specimen  
if it can be obtained is far more likely to be *M.*  
*A. Macmilliae* or possibly this large grey interior  
race; at any rate it will shed some further light  
on this family. I think Stenshoen is right, the  
original type from Alaska should bear Kennicott's  
name, and the others according to what you say  
require new ones. The question is now. Are the Alaska  
specimens as large as the birds from Walla Walla  
and the interior, or similar to the Oregon  
to Washington coast forms in size, but not in  
plumage. If that is the case I should think  
the Walla Walla bird might stand as a good  
species even. I return the table of measure-  
ments

Sincerely  
Chas E Bendire

Chas. E. Bendire

Feb. 14. 1891.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> 91.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Mr. Ridgway told me yesterday that you had returned the Screech-Owls from the North west and asked me if I had heard from you regarding them. We are both curious about them and hence these few lines. I hope you had also an opportunity to examine that Specimen from Birtle, said to have been taken by Prof. Marcou and referred to by Chamberlain in his Catalogue of Canadian Birds under *Negascops asio*. Of course it is not *N. asio*, <sup>as he says</sup> judging from the locality, Western Manitoba it should be either *N. a. macralliae*, or an intermediate form between the latter and my birds from Halla-Halla, resembling the Hellgate specimen

perhaps which I do not consider exactly like  
those taken by me either. That "Bottle" specimen  
should throw considerable light on the subject  
if you had a chance to examine it. I believe  
eventually *M. a. macmilliae* will also have  
to be split up into two races, a dark one found  
in the mountainous portions of its range and  
the lighter one, the present known form in the  
foothills and the river bottoms adjacent to them.

Yours Truly  
Chas E Bendire



Oliver E. Bendire

Feb'y 17-1891

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Feb'y 17<sup>th</sup> 91.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your favor of the 15<sup>th</sup> just received. I will write further as soon as I have shown your proofs to Mr. Ridgway. The Departments are all closed to day on account of Admiral Porters funeral and he has not come in. I want to see what he has to say about *M. aikenii*. I simply write at once to tell you that MacFarlanus first name is not Robert but Roderick Robt-Mac-Farlane but he was used more than the letter R. If it is not too late can you change it to simply R. MacFarlane. I have only been able to find one Colorado specimen of *Macwellia* and this comes from one of my sister, Montana specimens, although

The three here which are all mounted are  
all lighter colored, generally than the Colorado  
bird taken by Mr. Maxwell, near Colorado  
Springs. I am going to write to Gale and  
Smith about further particulars in regard  
to these birds and will let you know what  
I learn.

Yours Truly  
Chas. E. Bendire

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Feb 21<sup>st</sup> 91.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Yours of the 19<sup>th</sup> just received. I used to make the same mistake about MacFarlane's name. He usually signs himself R. MacFarlane, but his proper name is Roderick Ross MacFarlane. In regard to *M. aikeni*, I am quite satisfied now, that this is one of the best marked subspecies in the whole genus, but since you suggest it I would like to see a typical bird and also one of your saturatus. In regard to the Geographical Range of *M. aikeni* I have a somewhat different idea from you and believe am right. This bird has heretofore been considered *M. trichoptis* by Ridgway & he gives the latter range as including Colorado Springs to the north.

Although *M. macrilliae* overlaps the range  
of *M. aikeni* at this point, it is very doubt-  
ful in my mind if the latter is found much  
further north than Colorado Springs, cer-  
tainly not near Denver & Loveland where  
Prof. Tate & Smith have been collecting  
for several years. I have written to both  
of them and will send you their letters  
when they come. I believe that *M. aikeni*'s  
range will be found to extend but very little  
further north than Colorado Springs and  
to extend through Northern New Mexico  
to about Fort Wingate in a southern and  
westerly direction. Dr. Shufelt took a  
Screech Owl & eggs there, which are likely  
referable to this race, unfortunately I have  
only the eggs and he has made a skeleton out  
of the bird. By the way, Dr. Merriam  
has a young Screech Owl about fledged  
taken at Roseburg Oregon, which is  
in the Rogue river Valley, West and a

II

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

a little north of Fort <sup>WASHINGTON</sup> Kamath, which might throw some light on the birds found there. This should be intermediate between *Bendirei* & *MacFarlanei*. I think you have one or two birds of the latter of just about the same size, and there is one here in the collection also taken by me. If you think it worth while, I will try to get them all & send over to you for comparison. I have no doubt Merriam will let me have it. I have also written to Macoun at Ottawa for that specimen from Birtle and will let you know. I shall include these new subspecies of *Megascops* in my book without waiting to see what the A. O. U. will do about them. If you have another extra to spare, I should like to send one to MacFarlane.

Chas E. Bendin

July 21-1891

Yours sincerely

Chas E Bendin

Capt. Chas. E. Bendire  
Mar. 9. 1891

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

March 9<sup>th</sup> 91.

Dear Mr. Brewster.

Mr Ridgway had been absent for a few days and only come to the office to day so I kept the birds till he could see them. I am only surprised that no one has noticed the marked difference in coloration in those two Colorado ones. Aikens vs the Rocky Mountain Serech one, the contrast is so great. If ever there was a good subspecies, this is one, and saturatus is too. I am sure Mr. Smith and Gale never found this bird where they are, and time will show that it belongs only to Southern Colorado and south to Central New Mexico and Northern Arizona.

Mr Ridgway tells me that he remembers that at the same time that I supposed Boise Idaho Serech one was received, some

Species of Cormorant, either *P. pennicillatus*  
or *P. pelagicus resplendens*, came in the same  
lot and that when he saw it he doubted the  
locality and did not give it in his Manual.  
There is little doubt but what that so called  
Boite's specimen really came from the mouth  
of the Columbia river, as well as the Cormorant.  
Ridgway says, that these two subspecies are  
all good and that had he had more material  
from Lower California, he would have de-  
scribed one or two himself before this.

I have just repacked the box and ordered  
it sent by registered mail. I hope it will  
reach you in good condition. Many thanks  
for sending on the specimens

Yours Truly  
Chas E. Bendire  
Curator Zoological Dept.



Chas. E. Bendire

March 17. 1891.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

March 17<sup>th</sup> 91.

Dear Mr. Brewster.

Your favor of the 15<sup>th</sup> just received.  
Many thanks for your remarks on *B. b. lucasanus*. I had  
called it a scarcely tenable race, and has fortified my notes  
now, with what you say on the subject. I showed your letter  
to Mr. Ridgway and note what you say about separating  
the Bubo from Lower California from *B. subarcticus*.  
Mr. Ridgway says he fully agreed with you, and he would  
have done this already if he had sufficient material. I  
believe this consists of a ring each of <sup>the</sup> different birds.  
I don't want to trouble you about sending your specimens  
on, as I am perfectly satisfied to accept your judgement  
fully in all such matters, but should like you to give  
me the names you propose to call this bird both Latin  
and Scientific as I should like to mention it in a foot  
note in my article on the Western Great Horned Owl.

Mr Smith of Loveland, has sent 10 skins of *M. macralliae*  
to Mr Ridgway for examination, belonging to Mr. Hoopes  
of West Chester Pa and which are to be sent to him from here.  
I have seen them and they are all perfectly typical *Mac-*  
*ralliae*, some of them if not the greater part are even lighter  
colored yet than my *Custer* specimens and not one shows  
the faintest suspicion of intergrading with *M. aikeni*.

There is not the slightest doubt about *M. aikeni* not occurring  
any further north than Central Colorado, and also  
that the habitat of both races is similar, as you will  
see by Aikens letter which I enclose, as well as one  
from Cantwell. It would seem to me reasonable  
that they intergraded between Canon City and  
Colorado Springs. *Aikeni* is probably much more  
common there however than *Macralliae*. I also  
enclose you photos & letter of Dr. Shufelt about  
the Fort Wingate Sereech Oms which I believe  
come very near *Aikeni* also. Please return  
me the letters and photos as Dr Shufelt wants  
them returned, and also Aikens letter as I want  
to make some notes from it to add to the article  
on *M. aikeni*

Sincerely yours  
Chas E Bendire  
Curator Zoological Dept.

Washington D. C.

Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> 1892.

Dear Mr. Brewster.

Your kind letter came to hand and I am highly pleased indeed to receive such praise from you. I have tried to do the best I know how and with the experience gained so far, I hope to improve some with the next volume.

I can honestly say, that I value your opinion in this matter more than that of any other Ornithologist in this country, as you have done so much practical field work and are consequently far better qualified to judge, than others of our leading Ornithologists, who are apparently perfectly satisfied, as long as they have a sufficient number of Dry Skins to examine, while the general habits of our birds are of little or no consequence to them, and to spend any time in looking for

2.

Their nests and eggs, would be considered by some at least as a useless waste of energy.

Although four three newly described subspecies of *Megascops* were not accepted at the last meeting of the A. O. U. I feel satisfied, that they are as well entitled to subspecific rank, as any of the other forms and I therefore included them. I only hope that when you have read all of the text carefully, you will not have to change your opinion very radically. There are one or two quotations from other parties which I wish now, I had omitted. I have treated the matter as conservatively as I well could and where there was any reasonable doubt, I did not commit myself positively. So far as I can see, no startling error has cropped out yet.

I spent some weeks last June in the south western parts of the Adirondacks with Dr. Ralph and through his knowledge of the ground, I found a few interesting

Species at home, whose nests I had not personally seen before, at least not in their native haunts. Among them the Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers, the Mourning, Canadian and Nashville Warblers, and I also saw the nest of the Blackburnian and a number of the commoner Warblers. I shall spend the entire season there next year I think.

I am having some copies of the Smithsonian Edition returned and when I receive these I shall send you one of them. The copy you now have, is the Nat. Mus. Edition.

I am exceedingly glad to hear that your health is improving and it was on this account I have not written you before, as I had been told that your Doctor objected strongly to writing of any kind on your part, even letters. I trust that I shall see you here in November. I am not as well as usual myself but there is nothing serious the matter with me either. With kind regards to Mrs Brewster I remain sincerely yours  
Chas C Bendire

Chas. E. Bendire,

Sept. 14 - 1892.

Chas. C. Bendire.

Oct. 11-1892

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Oct 11<sup>th</sup> 92.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

I was glad to find your letter among my mail this morning and am very much pleased with what you have to say about the book. I do not expect every one to agree with my views, we all have our opinions and look at things in different lights. As long as you have not found any downright blunders in it, I am perfectly satisfied. Your criticism of Poling's notes I believe to be quite just, and no one regrets more than I do, that I mentioned his name at all. I likewise consider him a great fraud & a liar, but it was too late to take his statements out of the text when I learned it, and all I could do was to insert the short paragraph on Page 126 the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> lines

lines from the bottom of the page, which certainly hint strongly enough that I do not believe his statements and leave it to the reader to think what he may choose. What possible object could that man have had to make such statements when they were not true and I do not believe now that they are. I shall get reliable notes from Fort Huachuca before a great while through Capt Taylor 2<sup>d</sup> Co. & his son and if I find that Poling lied, I shall show him up.

In regard to Austin of Califas, with whom I had some correspondence about the very eggs you bought from <sup>him</sup>, I believe he is honest enough, but liable to make mistakes. I would have taken some of his eggs for Dr Ralph, but he wanted to sell them all in a lump, while I wanted only a portion of them, such as the Bay-breasted Warblers, Olive-sided flycatcher and a set of the Kinglets. He also offered two sets of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in this lot. The birds said to have been identified as such by Webster, but from his description of the position of



their nests on branches. I am sure they must  
 be something else. It is not to blame for this  
 but Webster who evidently does not know a  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher when he sees one, or else  
 their mode of nidification near Halifax is totally  
 different than in the Adirondacks where I saw  
 my first nest with eggs of this species last June.  
 If you received these eggs from him, you should  
 be able to tell what they are, most likely Traill's  
 Flycatcher. I have 21 good eggs of *Regulus*  
*calendula* and by the firm I get to that species  
 will probably have more & I therefore thank  
 you for your kind offer. If you know any-  
 one else however from whom I can get a genuine  
 set of eggs & nest of the Bay-breasted Warbler  
 I wish you would give me his address. This  
 is a species I want for the collection, but have  
 as yet not succeeded in getting.  
 I am glad to hear that you are improving

last and was counting on seeing you here  
at the next meeting, but Dr. Merrill told  
me since he returned, that you would not be  
on. He told me another thing too, that sur-  
prised me very much, and I presume you are  
aware of it yourself, that he will be married  
shortly on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, so he will not be present  
either at the meeting. I expect that the attendance  
of active members will be quite small. I  
hope you will yet manage to come, a little change  
may do you good. I have not been very well  
myself this summer and am still under treatment  
but hope to be all right again shortly and  
to begin work on Vol. II.

very sincerely yours  
Chas. E. Bendire

## SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

S. P. LANGLEY, Secretary  
G. BROWN GOODE, Assistant Secretary,  
in charge of U. S. National Museum

## UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

Washington, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1893

My dear Mr. Brewster.

I sincerely hope that your health has improved since I last heard from you and that you have again resumed your ornithological labors. I hate to trouble you but know of no one whose opinion I rather have than yours. I am about to start in on the Ravens and am at a loss where to place the birds found in the eastern United States, although especially those found in North Carolina and adjacent mountain regions. Can you help me out on this. The New England and Adirondack birds I presume may be safely called *Corvus c. principalis* and it would seem to me as if those from the points mentioned properly belong also to this race. Can you help me out on this point & give me your opinion at any rate. The western

Chas. E. Bendire.

March, 20-1893.

form I presume does not extend much beyond our northern border and intergrades with *principalis* in British Columbia. Have you any of my birds from Camp Laramy Oregon and if so would you call them perfectly typical *sinuatus*. Please let me know about this. Another question also. Do you find many examples of *Loxia* among the eastern race whose bills are as large as those of the birds found by me at Fort Klamath Oregon and of which I believe you have specimens from me. With kind regards to Mrs Brewster.

Sincerely yours  
Chas E Bendire

Chas. E. Bendire

March 30 - 1893

Washington D.C.

March 30<sup>th</sup> 1893

My dear Mr. Brewster.

I am extremely obliged to you for the measurements of the Ravens in your collection and return you the Cards herewith with many thanks. I had no idea you had such a good series of these birds, especially eastern ones.

Comparing these of the eastern and Western birds, it certainly looks as if they did not differ sufficiently to justify their separation and I shall lump them all together and give the range for principals for the present. "From Greenland west to Alaska, south to Labrador, the northern parts of Canada and northern British Columbia, leaving it for some more able ornithologist to settle this matter later. Judging from the measurements of four eastern specimens, I do not think I will be far out of the way to call them all *C. c. sinuatus*."

While eggs are very unreliable things to base an opinion on as a rule, there is one thing I noticed in this connection. I took quite a good series of these eggs in the vicinity of old Camp Harney Oregon and I could have killed dozens of their birds there had I wished to do so but I was after the eggs & not the birds. Well to come to it, I find that all of these Harney Ravens eggs as well as the very few others I had from the nest, are all much narrower, an elongated ovate mainly, while those from Greenland, Anderson River, Yukon River and other points in Alaska are more of a short ovate and average fully  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch broader than mine. In length they are exactly alike, but as I said before, they are remarkably constant in this feature and one can't help noticing it. I do not think that this feature amounts to anything at all, but it is nevertheless rather a little peculiar. I used to think that eggs laid by the same species in the north were nearly larger in size than laid by the same birds

in the South but that went dr. I have just worked up the three Grackles, *Quiscalus quiscula*, *cinereus* & *replacens*. For the first, B. B & R give the measurement of their eggs 1.25 by .90 inches, Ridgways Manual gives it 1.18 by .84 Davis copies the latter & I think upon the former. I make the average of 85 specimens accurately & carefully measured just 1.12 by .82 inches quite a difference for an egg of this size and so it goes. Now with the Florida Grackle the thing is just reversed. B. B & R & Ridg. Manual give the measurement as 1.12 by .81 I believe & I find it to be 1.20 by .82. and from typical birds taken by Dr. Ralph who brought several of the parents along. I can rely on these specimens, it is true I have not such a large series as of the others, but enough to answer the purpose. I shall not get my Manuscript for Vol II out for some time, possibly by Jan 95, it is very slow work and I shall take my time to it. I mean to spend the entire season this year in the Adirondacks taking notes, and hope too

To find a few good nests at the same time and next  
fall I shall come to the meeting at Cambridge  
and at the same time take a look at your collection  
which must be quite complete by this time.

I hope you are entirely well again and at  
work on your birds and thanking you again  
for the trouble you took in this matter I sub-  
scribe myself

Very truly yours  
Chas E Bendire



Charles E. Bendire.

Nov. 13 - 1893.

Washington D. C.

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 1893.

Dear Mr. Brewster.

I received your letter this morning and will send the Cards along with the other birds. I have already thanked Mrs Brewster for her kind invitation to stay at your house, but as soon as I learned that Mr Chamberlain was providing accommodations for visiting members I wrote him to fix me and I presume he has done so before this. I know that Mrs Brewster and your

a much wider range for your kind and more of a  
mountain form than the Mexican Screech Owl. I shall  
try to get this also if I can.

Sincerely yours

Chas E Bendire

11  
I will have your hands full anyhow as  
it is, and I shall be perfectly com-  
fortable as it is fixed and am just  
as much obliged to you. Mr Nelson  
is the only active member besides  
Dr. Merriam and myself that may  
be looked for from here. I saw that  
Dr Coues was out in Oregon about  
a week ago, looking up Lewis &  
Clark's old route but I presume he  
will be back in time for the meeting.  
Among the skins collected by Dr Merriam  
is a Screech Owl taken in the Hua-  
chuca Mts in Arizona I believe which  
certainly is not *F. richardsoni* and comes  
very near *altemi*, if it is not this  
subspecies, which would indicate

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 93

Dear Mr. Brewster.

I packed the promised eggs to day and enclose herewith the original labels. The Golden Plover eggs are as good specimens as we have in the Collection and I believe you will find them to differ somewhat from those you have to which I think you said were collected by Mr. R. MacFarlane also. I doubt this, & enclose his original labels in preference to new ones. I had a pleasant trip back and feel none the worse for it. I wish to thank you once more as well as Mrs B. for the kindness you have shown me during my visit.

Very sincerely yours  
Chas Bendire

Chas Bendire.

Nov. 28 - 1893.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Dec 18 1893

My dear Mr Brewster.

Your favor of yesterday came to hand this afternoon and I answer at once. I was in hopes from what I had heard that both you and Dr. Allen would be here on the 15<sup>th</sup> and I did not acknowledge your first letter and the receipt of the box of eggs at once. <sup>For that account.</sup> They came in perfect condition. I took up the two eggs of the Am. Golden eye and the set of 4 Blue-headed Vireo as a gift from you and the set of 5 Bay breasted Warbler and single egg of Sulphur bellied Flycatcher, only as a deposit, subject to your call at any time, when you wish them returned and the official acknowledgments for them will state so. I think you are quite right in not wanting to let them go for good, as long

The few sets you have, vary so much and they are  
an egg that cannot be obtained every day, except  
perhaps from an enterprising dealer like Ferris,  
and one or two others I might mention. In re-  
gard to those so called Pigeon Hawks eggs, which  
you think are likely to be Richardsons Merlins,  
If you are satisfied that they really came from  
that place in Saskatchewan you mention in your  
letter, I would be willing to take one or two sets  
of them, provided Frazer is willing to let them  
go at a reasonable price and will furnish the  
original data with them. If he shows you the letter  
from his correspondent there I shall be perfectly  
satisfied, but I dont care to buy any European  
Merlins or Kinglets eggs, that may have been  
substituted, like many dealers have the habit of  
doing. Let him show you that he actually has  
a correspondent in that country and I will be  
satisfied. I dont want to know anything more  
as long as you think the eggs are straight.

## UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

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THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

As to price they should not be worth more than \$2<sup>00</sup> per egg, I would be willing to give that and probably take all he has left. Now about that Death-hen set? And before I forget will you please give me the data again for that single egg of the Sulphur bellied Flycatcher taken in Sonora. I copied them, but lost or mislaid them somewhere.

Please remember me kindly to Mrs. Brewster and Miss Simmons and tell Mrs. B. that I really have not felt any bad effects from wearing that miserable small-failed coat and that I actually ventured out in it on Thanksgiving day, but under decided protest and I do not believe that I shall have any farther use for it for some time. With best wishes for Christmas, New Year  
 Please tell Jack that wonderful  
 I am not how do you do for  
 me  
 Sincerely yours  
 Chas. E. Bendire

Chas. E. Bendire.

Dec. 18-1893.



UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 94

My dear Mr Brewster.

I wrote to Mr Frager to  
send me the three sets of eggs and I received a letter from  
him this morning informing me that he had done so.  
and I presume they will be here some time today or on  
Monday. Will you please and let Mr. Denton give me  
the locality & date where that egg of *Myiodynastes*  
*lateiventris* <sup>I believe it came from somewhere in Sonora,</sup> was taken. I put it down at the time  
but misplaced it somewhere and can't find it. I  
expected to see you here before this time. Please re-  
member me kindly to Mrs Brewster and Miss Sim-  
mons and wishing you all a very happy and pleasant  
New Year. I remain

Very sincerely yours

Chas E Bendire

Can you see the party about the Heath Hen's eggs?

Lehar. E. Bendire

Jan. 6 - 1894.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 94.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

The Baron d'Hamonville, Chateau de Marmouse, Eure et Loir. France offers two eggs of the Great Auk for sale. These specimens are figured in the Zoological Review of France 1888 plates V & VI and are I am informed in excellent condition. He wants only 13,000 francs for the two, and writes that the specimen sold in London a couple of years ago also came from his collection. I thought I would let you know of this as the Museum in Cambridge or yourself might care to interest. It is more than likely that he would take some what less. If you have any idea of purchasing one or both, please let me know. Please remember me kindly to Mrs Brewster & Miss Simmons. I presume you will shortly

Bending Johns 2/8/97

Start on your trip to Trinidad with Mr Chapman and I trust you will have an enjoyable time.

Sincerely yours

Chas E Bendire

By the way Trazar sent me those two sets of Stripes eggs & I am perfectly satisfied that both are White rumps. I have several sets here that measure from 5 to 7/100<sup>th</sup> of an inch more than the largest sized set.

C. B.

Bendire Chas  
Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1894

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

August 3<sup>rd</sup> 94.

Dear Mr. Brewster.

I am busily working away on the Woodpecker at present and have  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Manuscript for Vol II ready and the plates are also assembled and I expect to see them in the printers hands shortly. My object in writing is this. In a letter of yours of Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 1887 you sent me a list of the eggs taken by Mr. Abbott Frazer while collecting for you in Lower California and in this list you mention a set of 4 eggs of *Melanerpes formicivorus angustifrons*. I would be extremely obliged to you if you would let me see them, or send me their measurements, as well as date and locality where taken. I can find no description of these eggs and I want to give it as long

as they are known. I expect to finish this  
Vol. by April and get it in the printers hands  
by that time and I have been exceedingly  
successful in adding new species to the collection  
during the past few months. Dr Ralph had  
excellent luck with the Mourning Warblers  
this year. You know we hunted for this warbler  
almost exclusively during the season of '92 & '93  
when I

good  
he co  
eggs  
left.  
10 m  
him  
shall  
you  
plea

Smithsonian Institution,  
Washington,  
D.C.

*Recd. of Oct 29*

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.  
A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law  
for using this envelope for other than  
Official Business.

But failed to get a single  
Ralph found one of 4 which  
and I found an adelted  
the young had just  
July 2<sup>d</sup> he had taken  
as I have not heard from  
ly taken a few others. I  
low a nice set as I know  
and am sure he will do so.  
Kindly to Mrs Brewster  
and hoping that you have had a pleasant summer  
I remain  
very sincerely  
Chas Bendire

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Vol. by April and get it in the printers hands  
by that time and I have been exceedingly  
successful in adding new species to the collection  
during the past few months. Dr Ralph had  
excellent luck with the Mourning Warblers  
this year. You know we hunted for this nest  
almost exclusively during the season of '92 & '93  
when I was up there. I failed to get a single  
good set although he could not find  
an egg in a nest left. This year  
I took 10 nests with eggs and I  
shall ask him to send me a nice set as I know  
you have not got one. I am sure he will do so.  
Please remember me kindly to Mrs Brewster  
and hoping that you have had a pleasant summer  
I remain very sincerely  
Chas Bendire

From  
For the U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM.

next meeting as far as I can learn.

The plates for my next volume will be printed by Ketterlinus & Co of Philadelphia again and they are to be finished by May 30<sup>th</sup> 95. They have them now and I hope that they will make a good set of them. Please remember me kindly to Mrs Brewster and Miss Simmons and believe me

Sincerely yours  
Chas Bendire

Chas. Bendire.

Oct. 28-1874.

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

WASHINGTON CITY

Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 1894

My dear Mr. Brewster

I should have written you before, but as I learned that you were up in Maine I postponed it. When I asked Dr Ralph to let you have a set of the Mourning Warblers eggs he wrote me in his next letter about a month later, that he would send the eggs on here before long and that I should then pick out a set for you and forward them with his compliments. The eggs only came yesterday, but as he mostly does, he has not sent any date blanks or nests as yet and it will probably be a month or longer before I get them. He is slow but sure and you can count on having a nice set with nest before very long. If you are anxious to take a set of these eggs yourself, with the knowledge he has now about the breeding habits of the



species, I know he would be delighted if  
you came up there next June and do a little  
collecting yourself. I shall probably go up  
again, although I presume I will have to  
devote some of my time to proof reading. My  
2<sup>d</sup> vol will be in the printers hands by that  
time I am sure, and probably earlier. I  
hope to finish the N.S. for it before Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1895.  
In fact I have only about 16 of the Hummers  
and the horned Larks besides two or three  
species I have to work over again, left to  
do yet and I can finish these up easily by  
that time, if nothing happens. By the way  
if you want any first class Alaska bird  
skins, Ancient Murrelet, Cassins Gull Pet, Fork  
tailed Petrel, Alaska Song and Sandwich  
Sparrows etc you can get them from Mr.  
Chase Littlejohn of Redwood City, Calif.  
who went up there this spring for the purpose  
of collecting birds and eggs. He is thorough-  
ly reliable and makes nice specimens.

He has eggs of most of these species also, but  
I presume they would not interest you so  
much. I see Dr Coues is back from his trip  
hunting up the sources of the Mississippi and  
I look for Merriam to return again by  
the latter part of next week. He has been out  
in Arizona. By the way in writing up our  
Cuckoos I find that Audubon, Coues and  
Maynard accuse them of robbing smaller birds  
~~nest~~ of their eggs. I must confess that I do not  
believe it and I have written to a number of  
careful and close observers and none of them  
have ever noticed anything of the kind; have  
you? I dont believe in copying such charges  
you. I dont believe in copying such charges  
unless there are good grounds for them and  
certainly dont believe that it is a common  
habit with either of the species, if they are guilty  
of such conduct at all. Among other inter-  
esting things Dr Ralph got a set of Gosh-  
awk and common Crossbills <sup>1891</sup> last spring  
in the Adirondacks. There will be only  
a slim delegation from here to attend the

Lehua. E. Bendire

Washington D.C. Dec. 1-1894  
Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 1894.

party who is just as bad, but he has never  
succeeded in becoming a member of the A.O.  
U. This is Mr. Chas B. Doe of Providence  
R.I. He says among other things that  
the Rough-legged Hawk breeds regular-  
ly in Vermont that he takes their eggs there  
and that both Samuels and yourself say  
also that it breeds there. I know that  
Samuels says nothing of the sort and I  
don't believe that you have either, if you have  
I am not aware of it. I have never been  
able to find a single authentic record of  
this species breeding in the U.S. excepting  
Alaska and I don't believe it does even  
as a straggler. I know Doe claims  
to find lots of rare things and has been  
imposing on people for years and I would  
not believe him on oath, Still I have the  
curiosity to find out, if you really

Dear Mr. Brewster

I was glad to see your  
familiar handwriting again but am sorry  
to learn that your old trouble has returned  
once more, Still I hope you will soon get over  
it. I wish you could have been at the last  
meeting as we would then I presume have  
had an other president for the A.O. U. as  
it was you came nearly getting it anyhow.  
I should like to see some <sup>one</sup> ~~one~~ who takes  
an active interest in our birds and not the  
man who has got it again for the third  
time. I am much obliged for your in-  
formation about our Cuckoo, it is the most  
positive information on the subject I have as  
yet been able to obtain and I will thank

that it is not a general custom with these birds to destroy the eggs of other species.

I hope you will be able to come up to the Adirondacks next June, I believe it would prove a very interesting trip for you and you could obtain some interesting specimens and among them certainly all the Mourning Warblers you wanted and probably a Connecticut Warbler or two besides. I believe this breeds here too. I know Dr. Ralph would be delighted to have you come and the trip is not a hard one by any means. He has not sent me the data blanks or the nests of the Mourning Warbler yet, I presume he will probably bring the former down with him when he comes here on his way to Florida, but the eggs are here now and you are sure of a full set of 4. I don't know if he will be as successful another year, but with all

the time we have spent on these birds for the past three seasons, he should know their habits pretty well. I received a letter from Mr. Stephens a few days ago in which he writes me that you had bought all his eggs taken by him on this summer's trip. Is there anything particularly interesting among them? For instance are there any eggs of *Otocoris a. rufa* in the lot. If there are I wish if not too much trouble you would send me the measurements of such specimens as you may have in your collection, at your convenience. I am just working on this genus and they will finish my manuscript for Vol II and I shall not be sorry when I get through with it. I see that Mr. Verrill is finally of the list of Associate members, but not exactly in the way, I should have liked to see him go. I am just now after another

believe that this Hawk really breeds there  
or not.

I am glad to hear that Mr Hemsham  
is better and hope he will return completely  
cured. Well, I will not inflict any  
more on you and hope to hear in your  
next letter that you are better. Merriam  
is about again and apparently none the  
worse for his mishap. With kindest  
regards to Mrs Brewster and Miss  
Simmons

Sincerely yours  
Chas Bendis

## SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

## UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

S. P. LANGLEY, Secretary  
G. BROWN GOODE, Assistant Secretary,  
in charge of U. S. National Museum

Washington, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 1894.

Dear Mr. Brewster.

Many thanks for your prompt answer I did not expect to hear anything else regarding the nesting of the Rough-legged Hawk in New England, as I know Mr. Doc Foe well. Stephens certainly did not take any rare eggs on the trip, if this is all he sent you. Regarding the Connecticut Warbler I am of course not sure that it breeds in the Adirondacks, but both Dr. Ralph and myself think we have seen it on two occasions anyhow, but he will not shoot a bird, unless he finds the nest and is made sure of its identity. I think it would well pay you to come up there next spring and he would be very glad indeed to have you do so. I will not forget to send you the nest with the set of Mourning Warblers eggs, when he sends it down, he is as particular about such things as anyone.

As you had not written me of having taken the nest and eggs of Bicknell's Thrush and I think they are certainly worth describing in the Auk. I take no stock in Langille's description myself; judging from what I have seen of the gentleman, I have a rather poor opinion of him and do not place any reliance in his statements. I see we have two different song Sparrows in Alaska *M. cinerea* and a darker and smaller form presumably *M. insignis* and it all came out through the difference in their eggs, which first attracted my attention to it. There have been specimens of both forms in the collection here for some time, but the very marked differences in

Chas. Bendire.  
Dec. 7-1894.

both the size and coloration of the two birds had been overlooked, and this shows that eggs occasionally will show something anyhow, although most Ornithologists don't think so, I know. I have just finished my MS. on the Horned Lark and have only three more species to write up to finish Vol. II and it will not take me more than a couple of days to do this. I will not be sorry when I get through, although I shall have to make a number of additions and the articles on *Empidonax pusillus* & *fraili* I shall have practically to write over again. With kind regards to Mrs Brewster and Miss Simmons.

Yours sincerely  
Chas Bendire

Bendire Chas  
April 4<sup>th</sup>. 1895

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON CITY

April 4<sup>th</sup> 1895

Dear Mr. Brewster.

This morning's mail brought me your revised Edition of *Minors Land and Game Birds* for which I see I am indebted to you. It is nicely gotten up and I will enjoy reading it. Your letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> ult. was also received in due time and I was pleased to note that you took about the same views about the Woodpeckers Dr. Merrill sent as I did. Dr. Ralph finally arrived here yesterday and I will send you the set and nest of the Mourning Warbler as soon as I get hold of the data from him, which he has with him.

I am very sorry to hear that the trip to Washington used you up again, but hope that by the time the nesting season begins in the Adirondacks you will feel well enough to undertake the journey

to Africa and the nesting grounds are easily reached  
from there and I know Dr. Ralph will be delighted  
to have you with him. Have you a good series  
of skins of Bicknell's Thrush, I want to send you  
the head and wing of a specimen from southeastern  
Newfoundland, about whose identity I am not quite  
satisfied. It appears to me to be intermediate  
between the Gray-checked Thrush and Bicknell's.  
We have scarcely any of the latter here and none taken  
in the breeding season, so I can't locate it satisfactorily.  
Ridgway got back from Florida last week and  
brought back a series of skins but nothing especially  
rare. He says he was a month too early.  
Ralph will start from here in about ten days.  
I turned my MS. for Vol II over to go to the  
printer 1622 pages typewritten foolscap size  
which will make about 500 pp of text and  
hope they will rush it through while they are  
about it.

Sincerely yours  
Chas Bendire



Bendires - Chas  
April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1895

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON CITY

April 11<sup>th</sup> 1895

Dear Mr. Brewster.

I send you to day by registered mail the nest and 4 eggs of the Mourning Warbler which I had promised to get you from Dr. Ralph several months ago. It comes rather late, but this is better than not to get it at all. The set represents a typical colored one. I also enclose the data for it in the box. Besides this you will find the head and wing with nest and one egg of what I suppose to be the Black-necked Thrush from south eastern Newfoundland. The 4 eggs the nest contained resemble the ones I send in this

With kind regards to Mr Brewster and Miss Trimmer

Sincerely yours

Chas Bentz

in every particular and then four eggs  
could not be sold apart from those of *T.*  
*aliciae*, of which we have a fair series of  
poorly Hatched specimens. I doubt if this species  
breeds this far south however and shall be  
much obliged for your opinion which will  
be good enough for me and I shall not  
trouble Mr. Batchelder regarding the  
matter. I enclose a frank to return  
the nest, egg & parts of parent and  
thank you in advance for the trouble this  
will cause you. Dr Ralph I believe has  
written you about the eggs of the Mourning  
Warbler I believe and also about your  
coming up to the Adirondacks next June  
and I sincerely hope you will feel able  
by that time to make the trip and I  
think you would enjoy it.

all of our birds both Land & Water, in 4 Volumes. I  
did not say that it was impossible to do this and expected  
to get along with this number in treating the Land  
Birds or Trust to luck for the Waterbirds afterwards.  
It will take all of this for the Land Birds alone even by  
confining myself simply to dry facts, as I am doing. There  
is no chance for embellishment of the book as it is. I know  
that yourself, Dr. Merriam and Mr. Bartrides have been  
selected to examine Vol II and your letters will probably  
have some weight in deciding if Mr Langley will advance  
the necessary funds for Vol III when this one is out. If he  
does not promise to do so I shall not go on and take  
an uncertain chance. There are a number of Ms. laying  
on the shelves here now that are awaiting publication  
but which will never see the light and I shall not  
have all my work for nothing, if I can help it. I am  
nearly 60 years old now and just as soon take it easy  
as to work hard and get little or no credit for what  
I do, at least in this country. At any rate I shall not com-  
mence Vol III until this one is out and I get some definite  
assurance about it being published when ready and with

Bendire to you  
Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> 1895

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON CITY

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Mr. Brewster.

I have just received your kind  
letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> and will answer it at once. I was  
very sorry not to have had an opportunity to have  
a good talk with you while you were here, but know  
how busy you were and expected you would make  
a longer stay; I was quite surprised to learn that  
you left on Saturday morning and was extremely sorry  
not to have seen you before your departure.

In regard to Vol. III of my book, I shall first  
require the positive assurance of both Mr. Langley  
the Secretary as well as of Dr. Goode, that it will  
be published as soon as I have the Ms. or it completed  
and unless such promise is given me I shall not  
commence it. In talking over the matter with these  
gentlemen regarding Vol II, Mr. Langley told

me that he could not promise definitely to furnish the funds for the balance of the plates required and looking at the matter impartially, I can find fault with it. It costs considerable to defray the expenses of the 1250 copies of one or three volumes of Contributions to Knowledge of which there are up to date 29 Vols. published and all these expenses have to come from the Smithsonian fund. In part of the edition the Nat. Museum pays for out of the regular U.S. appropriations, does not cost  $\frac{1}{4}$  as much per Vol. I can really not expect Mr. Langley to publish a Vol for me every few years at the Smithsonian expense as there are lots of others who want the same thing done and whose researches are fully as important as mine. While discussing the 2<sup>d</sup> Vol. he told me candidly how the case stood and while he did not say that he would not furnish the funds for future volumes, he intimated that this might be the case. He expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with the 1<sup>st</sup> Vol. and the criticisms from leading foreign ornithologists and felt pleased

with its reception abroad, telling me that he expected it to be equally good in every respect and I assured him that it would be so and I have little doubt that it will be equally satisfactory, but before I commence Vol III I must have positive assurance that it will be printed as soon as I have finished it. A work like this costs considerable labor, I have no one to help me hunt up records etc. I have to depend entirely on myself, measure all my specimens myself which alone takes up much more of my time than one would imagine and work out the geographical distribution and breeding ranges of each species & subspecies. It is true we will have a new checklist before long, but I would not follow that, but work the thing out myself as I have done in the first two volumes. Then I am a poor writer, it is hard work for me to express myself the way I want to, I have not the gift of gab and weave an interesting story out of little or nothing like some of our shining ornithological lights can and again I have to confine myself to a certain space for each species, in order to keep within limits. You can easily see this when I tell you that I am supposed to treat

2  
similar plates. Now you can form some sort of an idea just how  
I feel about this matter and you cant blame me for doing so.  
Regarding the Cal. Vulturis eggs Dr. Loomis did not  
get the eggs I have for me, I had them already sometime  
before he sent me the collectors letter offering them to the Cal.  
Academy of Sciences. I do not believe that this party had  
any more of these eggs as I wrote him I would take two  
or three more, if he secured others at the same price. I dont  
as soon give you the name of the party myself from whom I  
got the eggs with the simple condition that you write not let  
everyone know it. It is Wallace Mathers, Cambria, San  
Louis Obispo Co. Cal. If he succeeds in getting any others  
next spring, I expected to offer you one of them if you  
wanted it at cost price. I want about 2 more, if I can  
get them. There may be some other party who has taken  
them last season whom I dont know. I do know however  
that parties in Cal. are inquiring for European  
Trans eggs who look somewhat similar in color but  
are usually larger & differently shaped, who probably  
expect to palm these off for Condors eggs. There are  
many frauds in this line.

I don't believe my collector, has any others now and had  
I seen you here, I would have shown you some of his letters  
in which he gives some interesting facts about the habits  
of these birds which have never been observed before. I  
expect to write an article on the species next season  
after the breeding season is over and may learn some  
additional facts about them. No, I don't believe this man  
took any more eggs than those he sent me. I want to  
keep this thing out of the hands of such men as Taylor  
of the *Nidologist* is that class. They write extravagant  
stories and misrepresent matters too much. I am  
glad to hear that the railroad trip did not affect  
you unfavorably. With kind regards to Mrs Brewster  
and Miss Simmons

Sincerely yours  
Chas Bendire

had not been adopted yet, I did not do so at the time, expecting that the book would be out before they were accepted. Now the whole volume will be ancient history before it comes out.

I certainly am disgusted with the whole business. Regarding the Condors egg, I should prefer myself to let me get you one provided I can get others from my collector at the same price. I do not feel inclined to pay more than \$50<sup>00</sup> a piece for them and am some what doubtful considering all there has been written about them about being able to get others at this rate. However if any are offered to me this Spring and I don't take them I will let you know. I want one or two more myself & I have no doubt but what Nather will get some this Spring, but these California collectors are pretty sharp and

Washington D.C.

Jan 2<sup>d</sup> 1896

Dear Mr. Brewster.

First let me wish you a very happy & prosperous New Year and many returns of the same. Your letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> ultimo came duly to hand I can feel for you in the matter of being constantly interrupted in your work by visitors, as I get a taste of the same here also and generally when they are least wanted. Vol II I doubt now being out before June next and possibly not by that time and this is certainly provoking, had I known this I would have used your new names for *E. pusillus* & *E. p. frontalis* at the time but as I followed the Checklist and they

will probably get them, from a view of parasite. Taylor of the Microbiologist seems  
to have a stock of 9 specimens now and his unquestionably includes my first  
although he did not get this information from me, by any means. I do  
not believe however that Loomis's statement of one party taking 6 eggs  
last year is true. He told me that he would send me the letter he re-  
ceived from this party, but up to date I have not seen them yet or heard  
from him. I hope you are in good health and with kindest regards  
to Mrs Brewster & Miss Linnens I remain  
Yours sincerely  
Chas Pemberton

Bendire Schas  
Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1896



UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> 1896

Pendleton  
Feb. 6. 1896

Dear Mr. Brewster.

I received the enclosed paper to day from Dr. Merrill who asked me to look it over carefully and then send it to you. I presume he has already written to you about it. I think the points made by the Doctor are well taken and just. What he says is true and quite a number of other exceptions especially about Geographical Distribution might be added. Notably <sup>with</sup> *Melospiza cinerea* which occurs only on the Aleutian Islands excepting Kodiak and is unknown on the Pribilofs and certainly does not occur east of Fort Kenai Alaska.

*Lanius ludovicianus* as the range is given in the old A. O. U. list is in my opinion as well as in that of others much nearer correct than in the new edition. I presume he wants it returned to him after next year.

There is nothing new here. Ridgway left on Monday  
for Southern Florida to be gone a week or more  
With kind regards to Mrs Brewster and Miss Simmons

Sincerely yours  
Chas. Bentz.

Bendire Chas.

April 30<sup>th</sup> 1896

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

April 30<sup>th</sup> 1896

Dear Mr. Brewster.

A few days ago I heard from my California Vulture man. He has not succeeded so far in taking any of their eggs, but found a nest with a young one just hatched & not dry yet. I know ~~also~~ that another has been found, also with a single bird in it. The last, the party wants to raise & sell it afterwards to some Zoological Park. The first one I advised the finder to either make into a skin or have it done by someone who understands making skins & sell it this way, while still in the down, and as I doubt if the National Museum will be able to buy it or pay enough for it, I thought I would let you know it. I believe but can't tell positively that both the bird & the remains of the egg shell it came out of, can be purchased for \$50<sup>00</sup>. The shell is described to me as being in fair shape and about  $\frac{2}{3}$  is still sticking together, of course I can't tell without seeing

it, but have asked to send it on to me. I believe there are  
no downy young in any collection and this being the case I  
consider the price not exorbitant. Should the Museum not  
buy the specimen, do you want it? and what will you give.  
The collector is a poor man and I want to do the best I can  
for him; these birds laid fully a month earlier this season than  
last year and the chances for any more eggs being found this  
year at least are poor; so far I have not heard of any others  
being taken. With kind regards to Mrs. Brewster & Miss Simmon.

Sincerely yours

Chas Bendire

Bendire Chas.  
Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. 1896.

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON CITY

Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> 1896

Dear Mr. Brewster.

I expected to have been able to send you and Mr. Balchider a specially bound copy of my 2<sup>d</sup> Volume which has been out now for a month, but the man who binds my books has been sick and I will not get them for a couple of weeks. I simply mention this so you will not think that I have forgotten you completely. I have not been at all well during the last four months and have fallen away so much that you would not know me scarcely. I received a note from Mrs. Brewster some weeks ago inviting me to stay with you at the

next meeting, but I could not make out the name of the place where Mr. Hoppa  
is and therefore directed it to Cambridge in Ipswich. I reached her.  
I am afraid that few of the active members will be present from here excepting  
Dr. Merriam and possibly myself, if I feel well enough to go, but I will  
come if possible. I have lost about 40 lbs in weight and am very shaky  
still, but am slowly mending and unless I have a setback, I think I shall venture  
and make the trip. I want to show up Mr. Reine of Toronto and bring on some  
eggs he sent out etc with a view of dropping him from the list of Associate  
members, I do not believe the Union wants such members on its list.  
Please remember me kindly to Mrs. Brewster and Miss Sumner.

Sincerely yours  
Chas. Bendire