

NO. 1 (1)

Camp Harney Oregon
Sept 20th 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 send you by this mail a pair of skins of *Leucospiza fuscocotis* 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 Corps

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

Bardwin, Elsie
Sept. 20 - 78

Camp Harmony Oregon
Nov 13th 1875.

Mr. W. Brewster
Dear Sir,

I received your letter of Oct.
10th 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 Inn. Amongst the specimens I secured this year, shot respectively on the 8th & 13th 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 Pelicans. 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^d 1876 -

Mr. Wm. Brewster.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of Nov 30th 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^a 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 7th 1876

Mr. William Brewster.

Dr. Sir.

Your letter of the 18th ult and your list have come to hand. In carefully looking over the latter I find amongst your duplicates but a single species which I have not got already, viz *Dendroica maculosa* (Baird) No 204, and but two others of which I have not as good sets as I should wish Nos 349 & 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 20th 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 *titoralis* and 15 of var *leptorogus*.
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*
hastatum 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, *Tarus montanus* &
atricapillus var. are about the
only birds seen about the post, but a few
miles from here. Clark's crow, Yellow
Jay var *frontalis*, Crossbills are not
uncommon.

Burdin's Blot
Feb. 7 - 1876

Yours Truly
Ch^s Bendre
Capt. 1st Cav.

one specimen, a dark brown larva
irrefragably. Let me have the fruit
sent him, and I will ^{to write one} send you the
description of the nest & eggs
from him. Should there be another
specimen out here of which you should
like to obtain. Mine for comparison
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. T.
June 15th 1881

Dear Sir,

I send you by to-
day's mail a box containing two
specimens of *Beoph. 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.
Townsend and the other to the National
Museum. I labeled them *Beoph.
asio Kennicotti* of which you have

never seen the paper. This done
at Portland Ct about a week ago
I saw the paper then when it is
done, and then enclosed it in the
true Kennicott in which the description
are found. I have no skins here to
compare the difference in the several
crosses of air. McCalli's most excellent
Kennicott and as you seem 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 very gratefully

from the eastern form and if you mean
I can send you a few more. McCalli
of which however I have not handled
specimens for some years, but I have
never seen the *Macrallia* form. I
suppose as I obtain another female I
will forward it to you for use to
your collection, which I have reason
to believe is already the best private
one in the country. I doubt you find
the difference in the two forms found
in the North west sufficiently great
to warrant considering them as
two distinct races. I am inclined
to look upon them as such. You
are at perfect liberty to describe the

1722
I feel and as I am subject to constant
changes of Nation etc. I find even
my zoological Collection considerable
of an elephant on my hand.

Very truly Yours
Ch^s Gentre

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* like mine. 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 marks as I have not the room to keep them

very truly yours
Chas Bendire

Fort Walla Walla W. T.
Sept 1st 1881.

Dear Sir,
I have just received your
letter of the 18th 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 28th 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 *Hio* & I suppose he is right after all.

8 Sept 1/1881
Capt. 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 Temminck 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 Kenaicotts 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 116×101 , 119×104 , 118×104 , 119×101 , 120×100 , 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 hawk, 1 *gairaners* wood pecker & *Sceris*
do this comprises my skins at present. I gave
Mr Lawrence in New York most of them last
spring & amongst them some fine ones. + *T. Falco*
maucanus polyagrus is the finest plumage a bird that
Pidgeon 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 27th 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. Pidgeon. The two sets of eggs came
also to hand for which please accept my best
thanks. I have plenty eggs of *Sceris* owl
and will send you a set of 8 or 9 in a few days.
Now as 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*
cottii type, than mine are certainly something
else. I shall send you another skin with this

Sept. 27, 1881

E. 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 *Massonellistya* 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 *Talonia* grouse that is shown. Cragway calls them at least, I have

Saloon 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
Saloon; 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 25th 1881.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your
letter of the 12th and am not at all surprised
to hear that Mr. Ridgway expresses some
what different views than his former letters
did. If you have never 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 *Halla Halla* 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 skins
to also 1 ♀ in alcohol
yourself two specimens, one of these
from San Domingo & also
a Portland 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. 15th
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 ^{of this form} 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 *Bonasa*

adult doves 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 Columbarius to saddle.
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 Walla Walla W. T.
Nov 15th 1881.

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir,

I send you by the same mail a box containing a single specimen adult ♀ of the *Beep* 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 *Ridgwayi* *novus* *tatusatus* of which I can't find a description anywhere. The race found here are neither *arcticus* or *pacificus* I am sure. Y^{rs}

and Short-eared Owls I have seen quite a number and on the 10th 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 otherwise injured. ^{possibly} These are the first specimens 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 12th we have had rather warm weather up to date, so pleasant in fact that I still found a *Pipilo* here on the 8th inst.

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 20th 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 15th inst, which I hope you will

got 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 Wren-
tings this morning & got two of them
with young birds however. I have also
heard of another Arctic Owl being
seen about town & hope to get it if
it stays long enough. *Cubo-
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. Smith

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 15th eight specimens
and after that season of the latter. Mr. Not-
Lammee got four of these ^{1 each} & 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 30th 1881.

W. William Brewster

Dear Bird

Your letter of the 13th inst came to hand
in due time. The two specimens of *Seopent*
to you on the 15th ^{inst} ²² 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

but one I sent you. Now regarding the
other specimens. It 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 Puffed grouse
3 Sharp tail, 8 Great horned owls, 1 Snowy owl
3 Short eared, 1 Long eared, 1 Scops asio —
8-10 Magpies, same number of the Killdeers as
comes probably under amercens, 2 Goshawks, 2
Accipiter cooperi ^{3 Richardson's} Western form, 1 Osprey, 3
Rough legged Buzzards dark plumage, 2 Golden
Plovers, 1 Hutton Vulture, several species Woodpeckers
and a lot of smaller birds. The skins with few
exceptions are good ones in every respect, clean and
well poisoned, skinned down to root of bill like
Linnaeus are it, and the Carls I shall here after
put up like the last one sent. I believe first
class mounted 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 Carls are a very interesting
series & although they will take up considerable
room, I want to see them go together. They
are all I think *Carolinensis* var. *lateratus*.
It is astonishing how many there are this year
I had few already, two I 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 Canyon flats & meadow flats, 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 amount of Jinks however I can't account, we have not had any very severe weather as yet, and all those I got to day 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. Leons obtained any Whistling Jinks for you in Arizona or is he still collecting for you there? If he is I am certain I would 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
E. P. Bendire

Capt. Bendire
Dec. 18, 1881

Fort Halla Halla H. T.
Dec 18th 1881.

Mr. William Brewster Dr. Sir.

Your interesting letter of the 4th 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 Halla Halla specimens are the *Lepidoc
Rennicotti*, 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^d 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 15 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 Boston
climate must be abominable 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 Halls Halls A. T.
Jan 2^d 1882.

Mr. William Brewster
Dear Sir,

I have just received your letter of
the 19th 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 I 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 Bay. 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 Quarter masters
department and hope to get them started
to 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*, *Thalainoides* 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

Capt. Bendire

Jan. 9, 1882

Fort Halla Halla H. T.
Jan. 9th 1882.

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir,

I have turned over to the Quar-
termaster 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
to turn over the lot to you intact for
examination and distribution. I en-
close 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 it is

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 knew how without taking up too much room, the principal thing I am afraid of, is that they will be squeezed 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 at 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 more 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 excessively 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 to shall get a lot more of them. I am sorry I cant send more Evening Grosbeaks 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 Hespering 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. 9th 1882 to Mr. William Brewster Cambridge Mass, through National Museum Washington D.C. to be distributed as indicated

Dusky w. Storma Owl	6	5	2	2	1	1	"	"	2	1	1	1	11	12
Hagpie	8	7	3	2	1	1	"	"	2	2	2	2	15	
Snowy Owl	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Bairnsong Hawk	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
North Western Fishcrow	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Western Goshawk	3	1	X	X	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	4	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1	2	1	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
Rough legged Hawk	1	1	"	"	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Oregon ruffed Grouse	10	2	2	2	2	"	2	"	2	"	2	"	12	
Short-eared Owl	5	1	1	1	2	"	"	"	1	"	1	"	6	
Black-h. Starling Jay	7	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	"	11	
Golden Plover	"	2	"	X	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Kingfishers	2	1	1	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
Richardson's Merlin	1	2	1	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
Kennicott's Owl	"	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Copper Hawk	1	1	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Western Meadowlark	"	3	"	X	"	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	3	
Mourning Dove	1	"	X	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Great Black-h. Cuckoo	6	3	2	1	2	1	"	"	2	1	"	"	9	
Oregon Nighthawk	6	3	2	1	2	1	"	"	2	1	"	"	9	
Red-shafted Flicker	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Lewis Woodpecker	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Sparrowhawk	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Brewer's Blackbird	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Northern Waxwing	7	5	2	1	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	1	1	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	4	
H. Savannah Sparrow	1	1	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Goldfinch	1	1	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Oregon Chickadee	1	2	X	X	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
White-crowned Sparrow interm	3	5	X	2	1	1	"	"	1	1	"	"	8	
Am. Titlark	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Storma Lark	1	1	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Gairdners Woodpecker	2	"	X	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	
Evening Grosbeak	2	1	1	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
Tree Sparrow	2	2	1	1	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	4	
Northern Towhee	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Western Robin	2	1	1	1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
Br. North. Thrush	1	3	1	2	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	4	

First choice to Mr Brewster fourth Cambridge Mass
 second " " Dick Hall last Lawrence
 third " " Nat. Museum
 Total 1170

Amongst the Br. Storma Owls are two different patterns of coloration on the Saturatus style. the other I am doubt full 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 best I have ever seen out here. Is the Starling 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 olive on the back than the eastern ones? What is the source 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 story. 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. Returns there I lost by fire in '76, and the last breakage I don't seem to make much head way, but such things cant be helped - I shall commence again.

Capt. Bendire
Fort Halls, Idaho T. ^{Feb 16/1882}
Feb 16th 1882.

Mr. William Brewster.
Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 28th 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 cant 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 dont have to wait several years. Since I sent this box I have taken 3 more or rather four Scops asio

Remicote 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* however, or I should have said *cinereus*. 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 'Eggs' 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 & Pigeon*
Watersheds 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 26th 1882

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 8th inst was received by me on the 22^d 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 Hawk 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 to obtain one, they were presumably
stragglers. I have five more *Hemnicottus*
Cois 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

months & 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

Fort Hall, Idaho H. I.
March 27th 1882

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of the 11th 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 proving
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 won't 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 or 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 or 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 or
keep them together as long as you want to do
so. They are all gifts anyhow to the different
parties that are to get them can wait.
I don't care for Gosh 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 or 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 or that would
have been the end of it just like they did last year,
when I sent them about the same number
or packed in the same way. No, just lecture
away 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 rare
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 or a set of
six of *his americanus* on the 16th or the latest

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 Sumner 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, 1872~~

Chas. Bendire

Fort Halla Halla N. T.,
April 3^d 1882

Mr William Brewster

Dear Sir

Yours of the 18th ult has been received.
Will 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 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 not 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 *T. richardsoni*
is nothing else than a bird in the adult plumage
to the plumage ~~as described~~ ^{as such} 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 *T.*
sussexi; 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 ^{more} than the birds
found here. Of course without

specimens to compare it is a hard matter
to give a positive opinion. The *T.*
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.
B. Lawrence 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 hang 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 17th 1882

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of April 30th 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 1st of June. I shall send on what birds I have skinned before I go, through the National Museum as usual. The *Archifuteo 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 Hood stained &

Wm. Brewster
May 17, 1882

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 one 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 Dean
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 5th
found young ones on the 11th Found
nest of Virginia rail with eggs on April
26th & young birds of same species per-
haps a week old on same date.

On the 8th 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 etc. Took also a set of Magpie egg
with 10 to the set & same number from
a reshaped flicker. Have also bred
a fine set of five eggs of the Prairie
falcon & will shortly have several
sets of *Colinus leucurus*.

Yours, Sincerely
Chas E. Bendire

Capt. Bendire
May 24, 1882

Fort Hall, Idaho A.T.
May 24th 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. C. H.
Owens 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 then be returned
to the Nat. Museum.

Amongst the birds it contains is a
California Squirrel hawk, which is
for yourself, 5 adult Jays and 2
Crows, a pair of the *S. ...*

sent 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 now 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,
O. R. Murie

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 Salmon
trout 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 western
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 28th 1882.

Mr. William Brewster.
Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 15th inst arrived
here yesterday, and I came here on the 18th.
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 14th. 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
to 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 become familiar
with some of our birds here. Took a young
one alive which was big enough to fly out of
its nest on the 23^d; not a little very late it seems
to me, as it is one of the great horned Owls
likely the var. *Saturatus* & yesterday I shot
a *Pigmy owl*. This looked to me so small
that I thought it might be *Wheeleri* or
perhaps something new, but it was only a ♂
Pigmy, 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 27th. 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
brook-stream 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 15th 1882.

Mr. William Brewster.
Dear Sir.

I have finally a little time again
for letter writing and will answer
yours of the 25th ult. first. I have already
given you what information I can
in regard to *Talio columbianus* LeRoi;
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. Orin
Gray saw the lot & said there were
typical specimens of the three races
amongst the series I think he saw them
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 ^{have} 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
come close to D. migriceps, but do not
think it is referable to that species possibly
something new. I agree with you about
the rufous group and do not think
they are *salicis* at least not typical
and still they are certainly not umbelliform

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 sallar, and I think that that male
Asation will 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 27th 1882.

Mr. William Brewster.
Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 15th inst and
the postal cards, produced the same
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. Dickette gets the same
quantity as originally stated by me.
I had written to him that 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

Stes atricapillus, have never seen any
myself in that plumage before, two *Hirundo*
luteo *maucanus* *polyagrus*, one *fulvorum*
richardsoni, a number of *Certhia* *maina*,
in all sorts of plumages, one *Glauco* *ididum*
gnoma, *Dendroica* *nigrescens* or a
near one the feet markings are different
in this specimen, two *Sphyrapicus*
hyemalis both ♀, *Empidonax* *albellatus*
pyrocephalus, *arcticus*, *Passerella* *illiaea*
megarhynchos, *schistacea*, *Picicorvus*
californianus & *Gymnocitta* *cyano-*
cephala & others. In all sum 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 *Camax*
obscurus as well & *Perisoreus*
obscurus also. I shall hereafter keep
a record to my own number with
every specimen sent off, so that

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 19th 82.

Mr. William Brewster
Dear Sir

Your of the 4th 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 14th & 15th 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 these 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. 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 *Contopus borealis calurus* adult & very dark,
1 *Coronea obscura* 11 spec. *Perisoreus obscurus*
6♂ & 5♀. 1 *Passercilla iliaca christae*, 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*
lacustris, 1 *Procellaria graminea 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 Jay, at least
to come near getting him too. Ours however
seem to be scarce. I have not shipped any
skins as yet but will within a week as soon
as I get the box well filled & I have enough
now to do it. I have received acknowledg-
ments for the skins from everyone excepting
Mr. Peckham & as long as he has written
to you it makes no difference to me

so that he got the skins. I managed to
make 13 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 4th 1882.

Mr. William Brewster.
Dear Sir.

Yours of the 8th ult. was received
some time ago, since my last of Oct
19th I have not done so remarkably well.
Birds are getting to be very scarce about
here now very few wintering. Vitreous
Kinglets, Creepers, the slender billed 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 hemicolines
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 *Staphicus*
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 6th 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. So
I 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 23rd of last month I shot a *Carpodacus*
castaneus, I saw a pair, this is also rather late
for this species to remain. Even the Juncos
have gone. Of the *Melospiza*s 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. palmeri*
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 slope (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 28th 1883.

Mr. William Brewster.
Dr. Sir.

Your favor of the 15th 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. 8th 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 *chumberea* 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* — a variety an undescribed race. The bill is slender like that of *Lallan* 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 megarhyncha*
Nearly or quite typical

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

No 20. *Myiodytes pusillus* not *fulvifrons* though approaching it some what.

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

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

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

No 57 *Asalou columbarius* ♀ juv
" 190 " " ♂ adult
" 189 " *richardsoni* ♂ "

74 *Buteo swainsonii* juv unusually *dup coloria*

48 } *Pomasa 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

Crows 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 20th 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. Sucker. 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. 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. E. 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.

Fort Klamath Oregon
May 5th 1883.

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 15th 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

May 5 1883

Chas. E. Bendire

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 anything of any very great interest since I have written to you last. I am surprised to find the three races of *Passerillas* here 285 a + b + c to I guess Stephens is right about that matter, they intergrade into each other I am satisfied of it now.

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

370 not rare to 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^a a single specimen, 378^b 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 *Leris*
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 masked
so differently in first & 2^d eggs.

Have been on the lookout 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*
cairdneri in dead aspens only &
Melanerpes forquatus & *costaricus*
A. marcanus in aspens & 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 10th
of June & showed it to me on
my return when it contained four
young ones about 10 days old.

Capt. Bendire

July 2, 1883

Post on Klamath river

Post Klamath Cr.
July 2^d 1883.

Mr. William Brewster.
Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 28th 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. The nest

on June 11th 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 firs, breed invariably in about
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 (rather *purpureus*) to have

been found & described in History of
Birds of N. America, but that egg is
a fraud like a few others. I have
killed 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 green 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-*
micosorensis fairdi which with several
others is very common there. I saw
the latter for the first time when
in some of his holes along the
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. Carbone'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 Mammah
between June 9th to 24th 83 one of my men
accidentally found the nest of this species.
on June 30th 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} 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 futes of one of our target ranges
which is in daily use. Although I
searched carefully for pieces of the egg

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

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

O. E. Steudra

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 & skins 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. C. Bendire

Chas. C. Bendire
Aug 12, 1883

Fort Klamath Oregon
August 12th 1883.

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of the 31st ult, accompa-
ning 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 1st and if nothing prevents my
going east, shall probably see you
sometime 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.

In 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, and the belly is a dirty

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

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 ^{apical} 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 otherwise unmarked like adult. This is the color of a fully fledged nestling taken out of the nest July 16th another taken July 30th has changed considerably already. The red is more pronounced as a claret

Capt. Bendir

Aug. 27, 1883

Fort Klamath Oregon
August 27th 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. 26th 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 sum 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. 7th 1883.

Mr. William Brewster.

Dear Sir.

I shall now in all probability leave here on the 12th 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 I intended 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 ♂

[Myiophobus]

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 almost entirely replaced by greyish brown a few yellow feathers showing only through here 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~~

lower 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 Broadway & 29th Street, if I find it is still kept, if not I shall change after wards. 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 8th 1884

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your letter of the 3^d
was received several days ago and
yesterday morning I received the
box containing that set of Winter
Eggs. It is a beautiful set
and I am ever so much obliged to
you for them. I shall have two of
them figured & how we get at it,
nothing will be published for
at least a few to come. After I get
all through arranging everything by
picking out the specimens to be figured
I shall go to my new station in
Arizona & not likely to remain here
at least a few. In the mean time
your measurements will be taken

of all the materials here & when I get
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 Montana 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. E. Bendire
Bendire

Feb 1887

Chas. E. Bendire

seen yet. It has been snowing more
or less today, but it does not seem to
get any warmer for all that. It is his
time here to have some very good snow
in what little time it is left, but
now it looks as if it might remain
in perhaps bird life will be more plenty
full about the immediate vicinity
of the post.

Sincerely yours
Charles Bendire

Capt. Bendire
Dec. 18-1884

Fort Custer Montana
Dec 18th 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. leucostictes*. I have not seen any
others amongst them as yet. Within the
last two weeks I have shot three

birds which I miss are the true air
but as far as my memory serves me
they seem to me to be darker than the
true air not quite as light colored
as *S. macrillus*, 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 I'll send you one 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 *Macrillus* 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 *Gale virginianus*
antarcticus one *Scops* and one *Spectab*
2caeca, 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.
Thinking of Woodpecker reminds me
of a very remarkably colored specimen
I got about ten days ago. From its general
pattern of coloring 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 lined with the same shade as the wing
coverts & the outer edges of the 4th tail-
feather like wise. I don't know to whom
to give this specimen it does not come
squarely into *Macrillus* fine or else I would
let him see it. He was having real
winter at last. In the 10th it was
- 27 and here it has been pretty

Capt. Bendire

Jan. 2. 1885.

Q. M. Capt. Bendire
Jan. 2, 1885.

My dear Mr. [unclear]
I have just received your letter of the 29th and am glad to hear from you. I am sorry to hear that you are having such a hard time of it. I hope you will get left very soon. I am particularly glad to hear that the [unclear] which we have a [unclear] in [unclear] is [unclear] again. It is very [unclear]. This is an [unclear] [unclear] in winter and we have had fearfully cold weather. The [unclear] so far has been - 4 1/2. I am very

There is not much more to be done
and it has nearly completed this matter
trying the ground but proceed
and look out for any more
of the kind best work, but today
I feel some that better as it is getting
it is not possible that there is a prospect
of being able to do it again. I will
try and get some more done, but
but a week or two more. I think
it is not worth the trouble.

The weather is not so good
I am sorry about the weather
I am sorry about the weather
I am sorry about the weather
I am sorry about the weather
I am sorry about the weather
I am sorry about the weather
I am sorry about the weather
I am sorry about the weather
I am sorry about the weather
I am sorry about the weather

There is not much more to be done
and it has nearly completed this matter
trying the ground but proceed
and look out for any more
of the kind best work, but today
I feel some that better as it is getting
it is not possible that there is a prospect
of being able to do it again. I will
try and get some more done, but
but a week or two more. I think
it is not worth the trouble.

Fort Custer - Montana
Feb. 26th 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 find them here. I have another male perhaps a trifle lighter than the one I sent you, and one of the officers here whom I learned to make skins

has a white lithic, dried from all
the largest birds I have seen here and
evidently a very old one. It is his
first one he wanted to keep it as an
argument and I could not persuade
him to let me have it, for a mother.
The two books are the best ones in the
lot. The other two males are perhaps
a trifle heavier marked on the breast
to their less robust. If I could exchange
I may get females but these are very
nice specimens. The others I put in the
box to sell up, and I believe they will
not be long. I was rather surprised
to find that the weather was so warm
I was in an unusually cold weather
then - 40° to 47°. It was fat not
impaired in perfect condition.
It may last through the fall, and
you had for adults of *Diopatra*
melanura *polygona*, I may
perhaps be able to get you a pair
later on. I hope a nearly adult

Male yesterday. The Thorker red-
 mts are just commencing to come
 back also. I have not been able to
 see Leucostictes in large enough flocks
 to make it an object to send you
 a lot in the flesh. They are not nearly
 as plenty here, as I found them about
 Camp Harney. I mean to do not
 flock together they may they are
 there. We are throwing a little milk
 & water now in hope soon to see
 a few of the earlier migrants come
 along. Excepting the Gaggles, Long
 eared owl and I'm not thinking I have
 sent you about a complete list of the
 migrants residents down here yet
 as far as to me. Please let me
 know what you make out of the
 owls. The few nights my kin have
 and as it would cost so much to
 send by freight I am going to

1853 6 Feb 6

Send it by express. I hope to go
up to the Highorn mountains
about June 1st to get some of
the Highorn's grouse and other
birds found in the pines. If the
birds prove to be spinners in the
grey plumage 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 railroad
for several days so
the box will probably
be a week behind this
letter

C. S.

list of skins bought for
William Brewster

- 2 ♂ & ♀ *P. virginianus borealis*
2 ♀ & ♂ *Scops asio kennicotti?*
1 ♀ *Myctala acadica*
2 ♂ & ♀ *Picus villosus*
2 ♂ & ♀ *Tarus atricapillus septentrionalis*
4 ♂ & ♀ *Leucosticte alpestris*
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 file I call
for it.

C. Bendire

Capt. Bendire

Feb. 26. 1845

Capt. Bendire

MS. 51.10.1 (36)

March 20, 1885

Fort Custer Montana

March 20th 85.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

I have just received your letter of the 15th inst and am glad to learn that the skins are acceptable. In regard to the Hairy 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 yet 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^d. 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 *fortis*
and I kept the specimen on that account
these two are the only real good skins
in the lot which I have left, all the balance
are more or less torn & injured.
subarcticus 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 is Mr.
Burdette has. They have not commenced
to lay yet I think, a female I got

on the 11th inst had one egg in her about
the size of a marble and one Lieut
Goubelli got on the 14th having a 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
within if possible. So the Geophs are
Macmillan I had an idea that they were
not light colored enough for this race, but
unless you have specimens to compare with,
you cant be positive of anything. That
Centrocercus is the finest specimen I ever
have ever seen, then I 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 I put in that box was the
smallest chick I had; the large ones would
not commence to raise up I just put
it in to fill up. The two Geophs different

entirely new, except the neck, they were
sent in their first condition or near
to it, was comparatively young birds
perhaps going on his second year. I will
be that you get a much better specimen
than that if you want it. Will you please
let me know how much the prices on that
you were proposed not have been over
two dollars. I am sure I can raise
about half, if I shall be able to get some
adult specimens, I got me a few I think
the day before. Let you that too, that is
a thoroughly old bird, but not in as
good plumage as I have had before, and
that is more a young one. I may be able to
get good ones, you need not make
a particular object of my giving these
birds to you, I will give you as best as I
please with my specimens, and all I care
for is, that you will not say anything
about the specimen I send you.
I have had a very nice specimen
not so far. It has not yet been named

~~The~~
pleasant with the exception of the 10th
the day of all others I wanted to see
that. In his way it showed all around
me must bring the eclipse on the 22nd
I was out the greater part of the day and
have ridden about 20 miles with my
whatever is left of fresh snow & mountains
and a few Er-mobles. A small flock
of Prairie chickens passed by a couple
of days ago, but I have also heard the
Cottontail meadow lark come in, perhaps
the former which never migrates. The
Spring was very good. This is about
the first we have seen since we
left. I did not see a single one, but
at all in my way. This is a very
good thing, indeed. I could get all
the birds I wanted in a comparatively
short time. Are you doing South again
this Spring? I have written to a
party in Salem, Mr. Clinton Cooke
Box 234

To, you and get me a copy as soon as
there they are the work. I can't see
and I hope that he will send me some
more things which I wanted to send to
you. You might write to him about
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 man
and is a beginner. I can tell him
also that I have your his address. I have
had no dealings with him and know
nothing about him. I think that was
the work it is more better to hasten
publishing something about the book
rather than to have more material.
Please remember me to Mr. Allen
when you see him.

Yours sincerely
C. L. L. Ford

It they have, I have failed to see them. -
I have the list of some new Diats -
Muscivora, ^{in the mountains} I have seen
Carnes frugivorus, Oryzias vociferus
and yesterday I saw a single Dryocopus
Jays. I have seen ^{birds} lying over
that could not make out what they were
and have also seen a few species of Ducks
& Geese but not more. I am to see
the first robin yet. There are evidently
to have some good weather yet. I have
seen the ^{birds} ^{of the} ^{type of}
Carnivora comes from ^{the} ^{river}
Yukon which by the way is quite close
to here. I think the ^{birds} ^{are} ^{from}
the mountains is found here as well.
I have seen ^{the} ^{supposition} that
perhaps ^{the} ^{mountains} might be the birds
of the mountain valleys & Campbell's
that of the low country was held. -
Yalla Yalla is an open prairie
and I have seen ^{the} ^{birds}

hundreds of miles from the mountains
there as well as here. - The ^{country} ^{is}
is in a prairie or rather bad land country
and you can't see it that way. -
The matter however is a regular ^{mountain}
valley or a ^{lake} ^{is} ^{found} ^{if} ^{the} ^{river}
is found any further west. For the ^{birds}
birds are like the Yalla Yalla ones, but
the country is radically different, but
between Yalla Yalla and this place there
is much less difference. I have seen
7 or 10 more species here which I have
thoroughly had on the ^{mountains}. I will
lay one or five miles long on the ^{side} ^{of}
you and it will show you some ^{birds}
birds. The ^{birds} ^{are} ^{the} ^{mountains}
to clear about the north is the ^{birds} ^{are}
I have seen them, and it takes ^{the} ^{birds}
and patience to make a nice skin, but
if you want keep, you will see ^{the}
have thoroughly seen with ^{the} ^{birds}
the inside of all the birds with

Capt. Bendire

April 17. 1885

Fort Custer, Montana
April 17th 1885.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

As there is a hostility
of my having to get ready suddenly
to leave for the Northern border on
account of the rail trouble I packed
all the skins I had on hand and I
enclosed ^{in paper} the finest pair of *Centrocercus*
wrathianus & the only ♂ *Talco-*
meicurus & a good *Picus* harrisi
in a box which I will ship shortly
to the Nat. Museum at Washington
No 765 is the *Talco-*

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

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

Capt. Bendire

June 26, 1885

Fort Custer Montana,
June 29th 1885.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your letter of the 22^d 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. It 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 observed
to which cannot be seen without looking
for them. I think as soon as you
learn that, it may be best, it would
be well for you to write to him
about the book, as they all have some
name in them. I will write to him
also in a day or two.

You ask what success I have had
you to check off. As 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 ones a good many eastern
ones amongst them.

The only bird that really
interested me is *Columbigallia*.
I find it tolerably common and took
down of its nest & eggs. Next in
interest to me was *Columbigallia*
affinis *huculana* a set of eggs

and that is about all. Others have
taken a set each of *Capito maculatus*
arcticus, *Cyanospiza cyanocephala*, *Falco*
naumanni, *Accipiter cooperii*, *Thryothorus*
trichurus and a lot tonight before I was
gone that I can't positively identify.
On 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 clock on the larva & eggs. I had to
do it to keep my place with the partners
of the company here. There are nine
there 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 check my time to the birds now

aside from this the mosquitoes are very
bad here & the buffalo miasma is 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 *Salicetia*
ficolor I found two nests each one with
a snake comfortably coiled upon it.
This evidently had made a meal of
the young. I shot both one rather
the other a *Trox* snake but did not
care to examine them closely. Have
you got the young in *Streptopelia*
of *C. ficolor*? We have had some
fearful storms here this summer
& take it all in all it is a miserable
country to be in, and I shall not
regret leaving it.

Yours sincerely
Chas. E. Fendler

Fort Custer, Montana.
July 12th 1895.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your of the 6th 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 reason
here is about 2000 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 *Chalchichiza 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 series
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 West Highlands & will also try
and get some the young of *Circus cyaneus*
montanus & *Phalacrocorax*. I presume
you are of the latter, the former however
is a species I can hardly see for
sure. I know that Kingman has un-
packed that box of birds, its which you
are & presume he has sent them to
you by this time. I hope I wish
you would let me know. I shall
look for the article about *L. bairdii*
in Forest & Stream with a good deal
of interest.

Yours sincerely
Chas. E. Bendire

July 12, 1875

Chas. E. Bendire

Fort Custer, Montana
July 14th 85.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

I have just received
four sets of the Whinst, offering nest
of eggs of S. pygmaea. I have
concluded it in a letter to Prof. Baird
& asked him to purchase them for
the Nat. Museum collection. If
I had had more eggs, I would not
hesitate a moment, but as the set
is small, I think they have gotten enough
out of me, & I am not able
to have the price asked, which is by no
means, unreasonably high, I am.

I have written to tell you that
I have four sets, but I am not able to

if you have not yet them: etc etc
! You will receive them very soon.

Yours sincerely
Chas A. Gardner

July 14, 1885

Chas. A. Gardner

Fort Custer Montana
August 4th 1885.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your letter of the 28th ult. has just come to hand & I am pleased to learn that you have at last received those birds from Mr. Kidgway. The 2nd pair of Sage grouse will be hard to match, if you got me one (I selected for you). The 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 Nov 19th 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.

21

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
& 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^d 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. This 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 to eggs had not been taken in
the Milan firm, and that I might get them.

Yours sincerely
Chas. C. Smith

Aug. 4. 1855

Capt. Bunker

Fort Custer, Montana
Sept. 4th 1885.

My dear Mr. Brewster

Your letter of the 24th 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 Strainsons Warbler reached Washington all right. Miss Perkins thought it would be quite an interesting bit of news for me to have me

quite a good description of both.
Do the eggs of this species seem to be
spotted with 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. Hayme
had to give up his investigations in
the South, but I know well enough
that there cant 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 new
officer can get but little time
for other pursuits. I shall try
to leave the service although other
this fall if they will retire me.

II

I have been in now over 30 years
and seen all I 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.

Josiah Lincolney
Ch^o & Surgeon

Capt. Bendire

Sept 4-1885

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Dec 9th 1886

My dear Mr. Brewster,

Your letter of the 5th 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 end blown 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 Gull Horn 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 heermanni* 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. Now there
are such species as *Suffinus gavia*, *S. griseus*
S. cinereus, *Halocybena micromosa*, *Oceanodroma*
Melania & *O. homochroa*, *Cymodroma*
grallaria, *Phaethon aethereus*, all the Cormorants
found in that section, *Fregata aquila*, *Brachyramphus*
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 these 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 Deland's 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 don't 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 besides 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 fear anything
to work on afterwards, which they invariably
will fear 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 15th
Some of the birds breed very early & collectors
are usually too late. A lot of Rose sparrow
filled eggs received lately were taken Jan 16th
near Key West Florida. I got them from
Tragar in exchange & I would think that
birds in Lower Cal. would commence laying
fully as early as in Florida. *Yours sincerely* Chas. 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 29th 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. Minner

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 better particulars as
I have met Lieut. Denison 4th 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 10th 87

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Yours of 8th 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.
You should like the set of *Erwinia's* *Wastley*
eggs as good as those of *Tiphia alleyi*, which
we have not at all, also *Junco 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 on
to arrange your collection.

Yours sincerely,
Chas. C. 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 7th 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 \$3⁰⁰ but he
also advertises other species that he is very un-
likely to have. Lt. Benson & Cavalry to
whom I gave you that letter for Mr Cahoon
has already sent in some good things.
About 1/2 dozen each of *Colinus virginianus*
& like number of *C. elegans* found in the

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same locality, heretofore only on record
from Matzattaw. 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 Mr. Chas. E. Bendire
or Grayson.

Capt. Beecher

Feb. 25-1887

In a R. Tompkins

(with)

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

March 3^d 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 12th 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. Hackburniae*

with exception of ground color, they were not
being so perceptible than in *D. flavifurcata*.
Mr Allen says they are it, I think he can
be fully relied on. I should like to see
them once. I have just got a letter from A. Benson
this morning written on the 23^d 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 ^{the five eggs}
I thought I had mentioned it. That ^{one of the}
elegans fuscicornis at Ridgway is going to ^{be}
it, is a perfectly good subspecies I think.
He got some skins from Mr. Lawrence & the
differences hold good.

Yours etc
Ch^s E. Bendire

Capt. Bendire

Mar. 3, 1897

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

April 29th 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 fulvicaudus

Lophopus hyperboreus

Charadrius dominicus

Tringa rufescens

Actodromas minutilla

Actodromas maculatus

} these are not first class.

Will do the best I can for you
Yours sincerely
Chas E Bendire

Capt. 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^d 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

Poliophila 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 after words & 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 & Mrs. Brewster a very
happy & merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely
Chas E Bendire

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Dec 9th 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, for more or than beginning with the waterbirds. Does this appear to you. V. Ingersoll
I know feared
to reach 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 ^{of} *noveboracensis* specimens, while of my own collecting of *fuliginosus* I have quite a good series. In talking this matter over with Stenshaw & 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 Stenshaw'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 cupido*? 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 *Demurus Carolinensis* is equally interesting.

You have a way of finding out things, that but few
possess. Now please give me your views honestly
by & 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 hope you will help me. Sincerely yours

Chas E. Pender

Dec 9. 1889

Capt. Pender

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Dec 27th 89

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Yours of the 17th 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 now expect 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^d 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 where ever possible. And your 4th 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
^{expressions} 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 1st 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 Vander

Capt. Bendin

Dec. 27. 1889

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

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Feb. 8th 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 will 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 *Cotinus 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 14th 1890.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your favor of the 10th and the box containing the egg of Heath hen & Nioasca Pigeon came to hand. The eggs are in good order, and I shall take the full care of them. The Nioasca Pigeon egg is considerably smaller than those of the Bandtailed Pigeon from Arizona. Their measure as follows
 162×110 , 168×104 , 158×110 , 169×109 , 162×113 , 152×110 . Your egg measures 145×100 inches. In my book I shall use metric measure.

Many thanks for information on *Colinus*.

Yours sincerely
 Chas. C. Bendire
 Curator etc

Chas. C. Bendire

Feb 14. 1890

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

March 20th 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 ^{northern} 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 nearness
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 9th 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 ^{Walla Walla} and Carny ^{Camp} if you ^{Oregon}
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, Biological 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~~
Atricapillus

19799 ♂ ad Klamath Merrill Mich. 11-87 typical

Chas. E. Bendire

July 25. 1890

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

July 25th 90

My dear Mr Brewster.

Your favor of the 24th 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 don't believe 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 look some

face or side there. It would be
strange if the western bird should
prove true acadica to the Rocky

Mt. form 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 17th 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, Propy.

August 8th 1880.

My dear Mr Brewster

Yours of the 6th had
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 new
items you may have picked up
about the "Hathen, White in
ample time for my use, if they
are published in the Feb. Auk.

Mr Jackson or rather Cooper
have already sent you some of
the small Owls, the latter purchased
from Voling for investigation
at least so the former writes
me. I presume you have heard
from Voling. 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 18th and
possibly not till the 23rd.

Sincerely yours
Chas E Bendire

Chas. E. Bendire.

Nov. 26-1890.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Nov. 26th 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 37.5 by 32 . The largest egg of the series measures 39 by 33.5 the smallest 35 by 31.5 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^d 90.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your favors of the 25th & 28th ult. came to hand. The average measurements of 56 eggs of *Megascops asio*, is 35⁵/₄ by 30 mm. The largest egg of this series from Pomauke Wisconsin measures 38 by 31, the smallest from Washington D C 32 by 29⁵/₈. 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 Huttons evidently the old birds with a young brood of 4, 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 & boxes 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 26th 1890.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your favor of the 24th 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 Brewster'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 6th 1891

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your of the 3^d 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 *terris* Remicotti 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 Bittle in the province of ^{Western Manitoba} ~~Alaska~~, Canada. Chamberlain who quotes

this under *Megascops asio* in his Canadian
Bird Catalogue is ^{likely} wrong in that. This specimen
if it can be obtained is far more likely to be N.
A. Mammillae or possibly this large grey interior
race; at any rate it will shed some further light
on this family. I think Stenshon 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
& 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. 14th 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 *Megascops asio*. Of course it is not *M. asio*, ^{as he says} judging from the locality, Western Manitoba it should be either *M. 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 N. 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 17 - 1891

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Feb 17th 91.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your favor of the 15th just received. I will write further as soon as I have shown your proofs to Mr. Ridgway. The Departments are all closed today on account of Admiral Porters funeral and he has not come in. I want to see what he has to say about *M. atheni*. I simply write at once to tell you that MacFarlanes first name is not Robert but Roderick Robt MacFarlane 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 Duster, Montana specimens, although

The three here which are all mounted are
all lighter colored, generally than the Colorado
bird taken by Mr. Macmillan, 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 21st 91.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Yours of the 19th 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 12 days
taken at Roseburg Oregon, which is
in the Rogue river Valley, with and a

II

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

a little north of Fort Klammath, which
might throw some light on the birds found
there. This should be intermediate between
Benderi & 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 9th 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 file he could see them. I am only surprised that no one has noticed the marked difference in coloration in those two Colorado Crows. Aikens vs the Rocky Mountain Serech Crow, 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 Crow 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
British specimen really came from the mouth
of the Columbia river, as well as the Cormorant.
Ridgway says, that these were subspecies and
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 17th 91.

Dear Mr. Brewster.

Your favor of the 15th just received.
Many thanks for your remarks on *B. b. lucasianus*. 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 ^{the} 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 *Macralliae*, some of them if not the greater part are even lighter colored yet than my Chester 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 Screech Owls 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. 14th 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 your 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

Thomas E. Bendire,

Sept. 14 - 1892.

Chas. C. Bendire.

Oct. 11-1892

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Oct 11th 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 12th & 13th 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^d Co 4th Cav & 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 ^{him}, 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. 16th, 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 20th, 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

blor 51 0.1 (71)

March 30 - 1893.

Washington D.C.

March 30th 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 them 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 have 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 $\frac{1}{100}$ 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 usually larger in size than laid by the same birds

in the South but that front dr. I have just worked up the three Grackles, *Quiscalus quiscula*, *cinereus* & *coelestis*. 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. 13th 1893.

Dear Mr. Brewster.

I received your letter this morning and will send the Crows 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
Charles D. Merriam

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. chrysotis* and comes
very near *altemi*, if it is not this
subspecies, which would increase

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WASHINGTON

Nov 28th 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 15th and I did not acknowledge your first letter and the receipt of the box of eggs at once. 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 egg, 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

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

As to price they should not be worth more than \$2⁰⁰ 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 6th 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 ^{I believe it came from somewhere in Sonora,} 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 8th 94.

My dear Mr. Brewster.

The Baron d'Hamonville, Chateau de Marmouze, 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 Lohas 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 *Strickes* eggs & I am perfectly satisfied that both are White rumps. I have several sets here that measure from 5 to 7/100th of an inch more than the largest sized set.

C. B.

Bendire Chas
Aug. 3rd 1894

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

August 3rd 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 20th 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 was in the field but failed to get a single

good
he collected
eggs
left.
10 nests
him.
shall
you
Please

D. C.

Smithsonian Institution,
Washington,

Walter H. Henshaw

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^d he had taken
as I have not heard from
ly taken a few others. I
how 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

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 nest
almost exclusively during the season of '92 & '93
when I was up there. I failed to get a single
good set altho I found one of 4 which
he could not find. I found an added
egg in a nest young had just
left. This year I had taken
10 nests with him since he
shall ask him to
you have not gone
Please remem
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 30th 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 28th 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. His 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^d 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 1st 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 thoroughly 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. 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 interesting things Dr Ralph got a set of Goshawk and common Crossbills ¹⁸⁹¹ last spring in the Adirondacks. There will be only a slim delegation from here to attend the

Chas. E. Bendire

Washington D.C. Dec. 1-1894
Dec 1st 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 ^{one} of those 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 Hawks or the nests of the Mourning Warblers 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. rufes* 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 7th 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 Foo 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 to make 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.

No you had not written me of having taken the nest and eggs of Bicknells 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 4th. 1895

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON CITY

April 4th 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^d 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 Washing-
ton 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-cheeked 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 11th, 1895

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON CITY

April 11th 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

Edw 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 Sawbill, 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 Lewis
Nov. 19th 1895

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON CITY

Nov 19th 1895.

Dear Mr. Brewster.

I have just received your kind
letter of the 17th 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 Mr. S. L. Good, 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^d 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 1st 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. 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 cannot 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 ask
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, they 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 the 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 for 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 \$50⁰⁰ a piece for them and am somewhat 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^d 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^d 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 set them, from a view of parasite. Taylor of the Micrologist 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 Brewer

Bendire Schas
Jan. 2nd, 1896

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Feb. 6th 1896Pendleton
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 ^{with} *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 30th 1896

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

April 30th 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 \$50⁰⁰. 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. 17th. 1896.

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON CITY

Oct. 17th 1896

Dear Mr. Brewster.

I expected to have been able to send you and Mr. Balchider a specially bound copy of my 2^d 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 readily. 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 he stopped
and therefore directed it to Cambridge in Syracuse. It 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 Simmons.

Sincerely yours
Chas. Bendire