

Rosemont, A. T., Feb. 15, - 99.

Mr. W<sup>m</sup> Brewster

Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Sir,

For the past six years I have been collecting rare ornithological and oological specimens here in Southern Ariz. I collected for years for Mr. Josiah Hoopes of West Chester, Pa. Much of his collection is now in the Academy of Natural sciences, Phil<sup>a</sup>.

For some reason he is not collecting any more, so the time I have spent for him for years I have now for some one else.

If you would like me to keep you informed as to my finds the coming season, I will be pleased to do so. Last season I took several very rare sets of eggs, among them sets of Sulphur-bell. fly catcher, broad billed hummer (1 set) Stephen's vireo Bridle titmouse<sup>2</sup> Olive warbler (1/1)

I have the following eggs that I shall dispose of. 1/1 Olive warbler, nest, and two parent birds, ex-



exceptionally fine skins @ \$4.00. The two skins are  
worth \$2.00. Eggs & nest \$2.25 without skins, or one skin if  
1/4 Lutes fly catcher, nest and lichen covered fir branch.  
(if wanted) \$5.00

1/2 Crows f. & nest \$2.00

1/2 Sulphur bellied fly catcher one egg has small  
chip out of side the size of this or smaller. but it  
is a large strong egg and not cracked. Will  
sell the two at same price I received per egg  
for my complete sets of 3. \$2.50. This one of  
six sets in existence, not counting set of 1 below.

1/1 Saeue species \$1.25

1/1 Ariz wood pecker (Thicklandi) .75

1/1 Buff breasted fly catcher & nest \$1.50

1/3 Lucy's warbler \$1.50

1/2, 1/2 Vermilion fly catcher, 50 set.

Do you buy any skins? I do not think  
there is any collector comes to this country who  
puts up as fine skins as mine. Will send you  
one if you would like to see my work.

Can give you best recommends  
as to reliability.

Very truly Yours  
Richard D. Lusk



Lusk - Richard H  
Feb. 5. 99.

Rosemont, A.T. Mar 8/99.

Mr William Brewster  
Cambridge, Mass

Dear Sir,

Your communication of Feb 26  
is recd., for which accept my thanks.  
I send you  $\frac{3}{4}$  Louis f.c. by this mail  
hoping that they will please you. I  
usually put up the parent skin but  
did not succeed in capturing the bird  
this time. Do you care for skins  
with sets? I have branch (hor. fork)  
on which this nest rested. It is not  
here, but at my sister's in the Hua-  
chuca mts. If you wish it I will  
send it to you next month when  
I will be going over there.



I send you in case with eggs, two skins, one, the blue throat hummer, about fairly, represents my best work, tho' I do very many as well. The other, the warbler, is as poor a skin as I ever send out. Between the two lies my average. The warbler was a much better looking skin two years ago, but I have packed it around a good deal. There is a great difference in species as to skin making. The red faced warbler is difficult to make a neat smooth skin of; I can scarce tell why. Of many other species of birds, my poorest skin is much better than that.

The warbler skin I do not wish

returned. The hummer you may re-  
turn unless you care for it, in which  
case you may send me 75 cents for it.  
My price for skins is 50 per cent of  
lower catalogue price, except in a  
few cases.

Would you like some fine Massena  
partridges @  $\$125$  ♂s, &  $\$100$  ♀s? Think  
I can furnish them next month if you do.

Expect to soon be with the birds  
all the time for two or three months.  
Will be pleased to let you know of  
the rare things I find.

Very respectfully  
Richard Lust



Lusk, R. D. Esq.

Mar 8, 1899.



Rosemont, A. T., Feb 6 - 1900.

Wm Brewster Esq  
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear sir,

You asked me to keep you informed as to the rare things in the oological line that I took. I did but little last season owing to ill health. I have a set 1/8 Massena partridge that I intended retaining for myself, but feel obliged to sell them. Then there is always the hope that I will find another set for myself, tho' in the case of this bird; I have found only 2 sets in seven years of searching.

These eggs bring about \$1.50 to 1.75 per egg. The set I have could hardly be called first class, tho' it would appear as such in a col. Three of the eggs are have slight cracks about the blowhole, which does not weaken the egg any and does not show unless closely examined; but I would not like to state that they were strictly 1<sup>st</sup> class in every respect, and dissapoint you upon examination. Then, too, the number is



not up to the average, tho' many lay less, as evidenced by stories of the inhabitants who have found the nests for years, and of whom I have often enquired concerning the birds and their habits, and also by sets taken in this country by other collectors.

I would sell the set for \$7.00  
Then I have a set of Audubon hermit thrush,  $\frac{1}{4}$  @ 1.00,  $\frac{1}{3}$  Low. Tanager @ 60¢  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Buffbreasted f. Of this bird I think there are not above 8 sets in existence, the first being taken in '96 in which year I also took a set. These readily bring 2.50 per egg. For these 2 that I have I want \$2.50 for set, since one egg has small hole besides blowhole but it is not cracked and is strong. They are unique among fly catcher egg, in shape and color, spotted creamy white or buffy white. and very small, as befits the bird. 2 is as typical a number as 3.

I enclose list of specimens that I can take next season, in all probability. I once sent you specimen of my work. I have steadily im-



proved since then.

The prices I enclose are for strictly 1<sup>st</sup> class adult skins, selected. Should you like a few fine skins from this locality of rare things and you will kindly let me know within a few weeks, I can collect them in fresh spring skins this spring.

For an order of any size I will do a little better by you than these prices, that is, will make slight discount.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Respectfully  
Richard S. Lusk

P.S.

Have you the pair of owls (*Megascops asperus*) taken by me in the Huachuacas, sent you by Mr. Worthen?



Scaled partridge	.35
Green hills "	.35
Mason's "	1.25 B. 1094
Band tailed pigeon	1.00
Wm red tailed hawk	
Mex black "	
Sparrow "	.25
Mex screech owl	.75
Flammulated screech "	2.50
Wm hooded "	1.00
Ferruginous pygmy "	1.00
Elf (Whitney's) "	.75
Ariz. wood pecker	
Gila "	
Texan "	
Mexican "	
Gilded flicker	
Stephens whippoorwill	1.00
Frosted poorwill	.75
White throat swift	.90
Rivoli hummer	1.00
Blue throat "	1.00
Black chinned hummer	.35
Broad tailed "	.35
Allen's "	.35
Sulph. bellied f.c.	.75
C. leucaceus "	.50
C. line sided "	.25
Coues "	.50
Hammonds "	.25
Wrights "	.25
Buff breasted "	.60
Vermillion	.35

Ariz jay	
Long crested jay	
Woodhouse "	
White-necked Raven	1.00
Scotts oriole	
Ariz hooded "	
Mex. cross bill	.25
Ariz gold finch	.15
Ariz junco	.20
Pink sided "	.15
Boncard Sparrow	.30
Spurred towhee	
Green tailed "	
Canon "	
Aberts "	
Pyrrhuloxia	
Low tanager	
Heptatic "	
Cooper's "	
Carson vireo	
Plumbeus "	
Stephens "	
Lucy's warbler	.40
Red faced "	.40
Townsend's "	.50
Hermit "	.50
Graces "	.50
Red start (painted)	.50
Olive warbler	.60
Bld. throat grey "	.30
Audubons "	.20
Hooded lark	
Sage thrush	
Palmer's	.40
Bendires	.50
Crysal	.50



Lusk, R. W.

Feb. 6, 1900

Canyon wren 30  
Baird's " 20  
Bridled titmouse 20  
Mex Chickadee 50  
Lead colored tit 15  
Verdin 25  
Audubon hermit thrush 20  
Chestnut black blue bird 25

There are many common species that I have omitted. Common species of sparrows, and the greater number of common species <sup>of all birds</sup> put down in the books for this locality I can furnish, but the generally distributed species you can, I presume, get cheaper elsewhere. I can not handle anything in this country of high prices for less than 15 cts.

Anything that I have not priced you can estimate at 25% of higher list price of any old standard catalogue, such as Northern's or Webster's. That is about the price I furnish specimens at, sometimes a little more and sometimes less.

R. W. L.



Rosemont, Ariz., March 23/1900

Wm Brewster Esq.,  
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Mr. Brewster,

Your card of Feb. 24 was delivered to wrong person, and I recd. it but a few days since.

The *Megascops aspersus* ♀ taken June 29<sup>95</sup> was most undoubtedly taken by me, as I took a small *Megascops* in June of that year in the same locality in which I took the one in '91. and sent it to Mr. Worthen. There were no other collectors in the Huachuca that season.

What I would like is a description of this species. If you will kindly furnish me with it, I will reciprocate in some way.

Hoping that you are well from your illness, I am

Very respectfully  
Richard Lusk

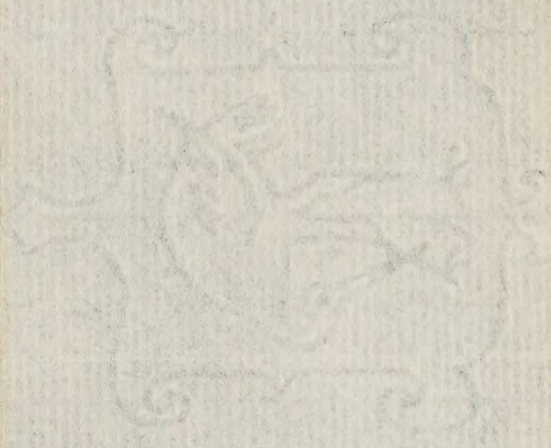
My address after April 12  
St. Huachuca, which is my  
permanent ad.



Lusk, R. D.,

Mar. 23 /1900.

STANDARD



STANDARD OIL COMPANY



Postcard  
to  
W. Brewster  
July 3/1903

Tucson, Ariz.,  
June 26-03.

Wm Brewster Esq.  
Cambridge.

My dear Sir,

Would you like a set  
of eggs of *Myiarchus l. olivaceus*?  
1/3 or 1/4 @ 3<sup>50</sup> per egg.

I spent the entire month of  
May studying the habits of this  
little known and interesting  
flycatcher, and I have rarely been  
as interested in a bird. The eggs  
do not resemble those of *cinereus*,  
nor does the bird in voice or habits,  
or movements.

You will remember me I think.

Very sincerely yours

Rich<sup>d</sup> D. Lusk

Parent bird  
with set.



Lusk, R. L.

June 26, 1903