

W. E. Brooks

Chilliwack Feb. 6-1888
British Columbia
6th Feb 1888

W. W. Brewster

Dear Sir

Mr Stote of Somersetshire
England in a letter received the
other day gives me the addresses of
several "good collectors" including
yourself, with whom he thinks we
might exchange specimens.

My son Allan skins very well
and from time to time we get hold of
some good birds.

I believe you may have one bird
that I greatly wish to possess, and
for even a single characteristic
example will give you an abundant
return, much beyond specimen for
specimen.

Of the genus Acornthis I have examples
of all but a rostratus. Dr Stejneger
lent me 4 and I took their measure-
ments and made a coloured sketch
of a characteristic male in the red
plumage. Can you possibly spare me
a male, either red or in the adult
grey plumage? One is also very much

Very welcome examples of Acornthis you can spare I shall be very glad of. I should be very glad to see you in the spring. I am afraid I shall never get to the mountains. Like Canada this is a very beautiful country. Yours truly W. E. Brooks

wanted by John Hancock for the
Newcastle Museum. I told him all
about this fine species & sent him a
sketch of the head, but in spite of all I
said he does not think there can be
a fine large redpoll of the size of hornemannii
& yet most thoroughly distinct.

Of course it is a thoroughly distinct
species; this is apparent at a glance, &
Steginger is very wrong in thinking other-
wise. There is no room for any such thing
as a trinomial here.

I don't know how it is that so many ornithologists speak of intermediate forms and hybrids. I have worked amongst small birds as much as most of them, and I have never seen a clear case of interbreeding, except that of the two crows Corvus and Corone, and also a few cases between pheasants & Black grouse. Steginger sent me a lot of Redpolls some of which he thought showed interbreeding, but I found them all easily separable.

The difficulty is this: a ragged bird in late summer plumage is not easy to determine, and thus a worn faded A. enilifer looks somewhat unlike itself when more than half the white is gone.

The very great difference between summer & autumn plumage is very conspicuous in many of the genus Phylloscopus. I have seen all the blue and yellow of P. affinis ~~not~~ destroyed by the sun except a little on the superciliaries. And out of a worn summer example of P. plumbeitarsus some made his new species "Seebohmi". As soon as I saw the description in print I asked him to send me the type. On one or two of the lesser wing coverts I found remains of the upper wing bar. Plumbeitarsus has 2 wing bars. It is found in Burma down to Choo. Seebohm on afterwards examining his name sake decided it was P. vireidans. He missed the faint remains of the upper wing bar. P. vireidans has several times been stated to occur in Burma, but the examples sent to me were a faded plumbeitarsus. The stouter bill of the latter is I think sufficient to separate it. I only mention the case of Phylloscopus to show how different the same species sometimes is in late summer. I have seen a steel blue black crow, a light rusty brown, all his metallic lustre being gone!!

With regard to the Redpolls u. holboellii is the only species I am doubtful about for the bill of linaria is very variable as to length. I am almost sure it is only linaria. Seydewitz sent me some characteristic examples including Swedish ones from the discoverer but I consider them

1871.6

why Linaria. As well as I remember one of my Ontario birds had quite as large a bill as that of the Caryac-holbaelli.

I suppose you know that the rosy plumage of the male of all the species only occurs the first and second year. The next month, it's first autumn, assumes rosy plumage which gets brighter the following spring and summer as the ends of the feathers wear away but the next autumn it puts on plumage similar to the female which it ever after retains. Carpodacus and other similar genera do the same. Hancock has often shot male and female ^{together} at the nest colour alike and I have frequently seen the old breeding birds of Carpodacus in the same plumage.

Crowsbills too once they moult the pure red they wear again it but pass to orange pale pinkish & finally to a green-yellow streaks like the female. So also Piricula, Callan & I got many grey & yellow males. I once shot a male of this species of a fine autumn colour but it was so shattered I did not skin it.

Mr Davison who used to collect from Horne is now sup't of the Raffles Museum at Singapore. He is going to send me a box of small birds collected in India Papua Phylloscopi & a strait birds as well from time to time - and I have to send him what he calls cosmopolitan species from this.

We get numbers of Amphelis garrula here & in summer a cedronum breeds here - the other goes North. Two species of Otocoris occur here. A yellow headed one is when the is usually placed, with brownish back and a longer head greyer with absolutely no yellow. I have not yet compared the yellow one with the Ontario one.

Have you *Otocoris arvensis*, Girardi?
Chrysolina, and *...*?

Chilliwack,

Apr. 18, 1888.

Dear Sir

I received your letter of the
8th March which was delayed by one of
the snow blockades so common on the
C.P.R.

I am sorry you have not a spare
of this rostrator. When you do get
any I should be glad of one for myself
and another to send to the Newcastle
Museum. In England hardly any one
believes in this very distinct species
except because they have not seen it.

We have got a few of the common
Linaria here but my youngest son
Arthur declares he has twice seen
a much larger bird and that it is
not a white bird like *hornemannii*
but of darker tone with very deeply
forked tail. He says the note is distinct
Once he shot one but it fell in the rain
and he could not recover it & the
other time he too missed it & never saw
it after. I wonder what species it could

It has broad base of breast brown on the tail & is a much lighter tone than *Columbarina*
Zonitoid

W. C.

W. C. Brooks Apr. 18, 1888

have been? Dr. Stejneger did not believe that a *Euphonia* occurred in Europe till I sent him a Schoran bird from the Petchora river collected by Seeborn.

You say you would like resident Chilkwaite birds - You don't mean by this the few birds that are found here all the year round?

If the mountainous birds we have not got any as yet except the rufous backed tit and a leucosticte which may be *L. leucosticte* as it appears to answer to the description. The black Chinned Humming bird & Bewicks Sandpiper are found here so is a Red Hummingbird with brilliant carmine throat. I am not well up in the American birds and fear I never shall be so cannot quote the Latin names without referring to the book. I should be glad of a few examples of *Otocoris* so as to determine our Ontario and B. C. ones. Both the B. C. ones appear to be distinct from the Ontario ones. This last week only the pale toned one without any yellow is to be seen. Allan shot a fine one today. Yesterday he got some *Anthus penestranicus*

in spring plumage. This pupit appears close to A. aquaticus and a blastostomi but does not lose its spots in summer the way the latter two do. The cloudy winter spots being exchanged for ^{a few} small well defined summer ones. Its habits preferring marshy places corresponds with those of the other two. Another truly aquatic pupit is A. rosaceus of India: which has bright sulphur yellow axillaries.

I made a large collection of birds in India which are now most of them in the British Museum - Others went to Seebohm J. Hancock & Canon Tristram. The types of the few birds named are in the British Museum. One of the last birds I got was a new Phylloscopus exceedingly like P. tristis but with an utterly different voice. P. tristis has sulphur yellow axillaries but this bird (P. scindianus) has them pure white. I found both frequenting the same places in Sind down to Sukkur and Schwan but at Mooltan and Lahore I only met with P. tristis. I also found Hirundo lunifrons white throat C. cinerea & the common C. affinis were plentiful in Sind but in the Punjab I only saw C. affinis.

The two small owls Scops. Henicotis and S. jamaica are found here, Nyct. olivaceus, the common & blue winged Nyct. are common, Columba fasciata common in the summer. There is a rail here like R. virginianus but the rufous on the breast is replaced by black. The throat white. I shot it last summer do you know what it is?

If you want good specimens of Steph. cales niger and Chaet. Vauxii, and the North western Fl. (Colaptes) we can get them for you. Allan is getting examples of all the birds he meets with so whatever this valley produces we may be able to send you except the Vultur (C. aur.) which would fall to any charge of shot I give them. I thought they were Eagles they look so unlike our Indian Vultur. I have killed V. monachus, V. caton & V. bengalensis & V. barbatus but this enormous Vultur has not fallen as yet. As far as I can make out we have Falco richardsoni here in the summer. I hope we shall have

N. S. Brooks

Aug 3. 1888 Chilliwack

British Columbia

3rd August - 1888

Dear Sir

Of the birds you mention Allan has them all ready except Falco richardsoni and Scops Kermicotti both of which he expects to get this fall. He has one of the last but, though we have frequently seen Falco richardsoni it has escaped us so far.

There is a black Merlin here F. suckleyi, do you want it? It differs from F. columbarius in having hardly any light marking on the under surface of the outer primaries, just a little pale spot instead of the usual cross bar. The western sandpiper Greenotes occidentalis, and Tinga bairdii are on hand; also very fine examples of Macrocercus ^{Scops} scapaceus.

Two species of Greenotes are found here, a

long and a short billed one, quite distinct I think.

Of the Otocorys, Allan would like characteristic examples of Alpestris, arenicola, giraudi, Chrysalasma and if you would also put in a characteristic example of pratensis I can return it or send you an Ontario example in its stead, whichever you prefer. We have a lot like birds McIlhenny terms pratensis but as his "aronaia" is certainly the same species I have not much confidence in his identification. Of other birds Allan wants he notes some waders, such as,

- Agelaius montana
- " nivosa
- " wilsonia
- " - Meloda

Neocorys spragueii (Ident. include this as a wader)
Microfalma himantopus
Lobipes tricolor and the other 2 Phalaropus if in summer plumage.

Are any of your examples of Otocorys

Alphestis European ^{ones} example? If you cannot spare a European one I should be glad of the loan of one to compare with an Ontario one to see if any are that species. When in England I had many given me by Mr Craemore of Archangel, but Home & Seaborn got all my Indian collections with which they were incorporated.

Before long Allan will make out a list of all this new country has produced so far & you will see them what you would like best.

There is a marsh wren here which Allan calls Cistothorus — ? It is larger than the Eastern bird and differs as follows 1. Under tail coverts strongly barred with brown, 2. Top of head strongly marked down each side with black, 3. Super ciliary more conspicuous, 4. Bill more slender and shorter though a larger bird, 5. Tail more ample & more vividly barred, 6. Wings ditto, 7. Back with a black patch streaked with white, very marked & strikingly different from the Eastern Marsh wren. We have also its nest of 6 eggs. From this description can you name it? The foot is smaller than that of the little one. (C. palustris)

Have you a spare Cistothorus stellatus?

Is our bird here Baird's C. planchicola? Why is the latter omitted from the last A. O. C. Check list?

Yours very truly

W. E. Brooks

W. G. Brooks

Chilliwack, Aug. 30-1888

British Columbia

30th August 1888

Dear Mr Brewster

Many thanks for the Box of
Skins which arrived the day
before yesterday. It had gone
to the custom house hence the
delay. Your letter arrived long
before. This Canadian Surt-
Charge 20 % duty on Specimens
of Natural History: does
your Surt charge duty on
Nat-Hist specimens?

Other boxes I had from Dr
Styger were not-charged.

I don't understand this.

I don't either see the items of
bird skins in the Tariff published
list for 1887.

I was much interested in the
Otocores. No one would dream
of uniting Chrysolocoma and Alpestris
but Siraudi, pratensis, aromica
and I think strigata seem a
good deal alike. I should like
to midsummer examples of
Alpestris. As far as I can see we
only got pratensis at Milton
in Hallow Co.

The branch you appear to be
pratensis. The specimen Allan
sends is not a very good one but
we shall have some better before
long. I forget what birds he
has put in the box for you, but

Falco sseklegzi is one. A few birds he has included are not in your desiderata but I think they will interest you. As soon as we can you shall have the other birds you spoke of. Falco Richardsoni has eluded us after all - Some times we had a good chance of it when no gun was at hand. I had both barrels at me with my heavy 10 bore but it was too high. It is quite a light coloured bird & does not affect the heavy wooded country.

If you can get me a copy I should like much to see Kennahaw's paper on the Otaeases. I expect it will be superior to Seeborn's on the Phylloscopinae. What a horrible mess he made of it. He sent the M.S. to me to look over but I told him it required to be entirely rewritten. Some people cannot describe colour & the idea of using such an expression as "dashed all over" for tinged or washed with. His paper gives the idea of a lot of streaked or spotted birds. He had only just learned to distinguish most of the group when he was seized with the wish to write a monograph of them. If you ever saw that V vol of the B. M. catalogue you would notice that he says Phylloscopus lugubris "would scarcely be entitled to specific rank were it not that it appears to have a more Eastern geographical range". How independent of the lugubris is smaller more dusky & has an utterly different voice. Magnirostris also breeds in the Himalayas but lugubris does not. He also suppresses my Horornis pallidus & unites it with H. fortipes but I have seen & heard them both & know them to be distinct.

"Phylloscopus scotohorni" of Home he places as a synonym of P. vireidans. Now the bird (in ragged summer plumage) came from Burmah and most-certainly it was P. plumbeus = tarsus (Sumbrae) for it had the bill of that bird & I also discovered a clear trace of the upper wing bar & vireidans has only one wing bar. Müller's P. presbyter he writes with Paly's P. vireidipennis. Now I examined Paly's types in the Calcutta Museum & they were only small examples of P. trochiloides and there was not a trace of a white edged tail feather in either of them. They were also too large for presbyter. Horreiter brunneus (Home) a very distinct species he also compounds ("confuses" he would say) with H. fortipes. These are only a few of his blunders and it would have been better for the science had he never attempted to write about

closely affixed species. He is a most
unsafe man where the distinctions
are slight.

Of *P. tyleri* he says Vol V B M Cat-
"Autumn plumage". After the Autumn ^{Month} plumage
the underparts are much buffier.

Winter plumage. Showing the usual effects of
chase." Now at the date when he wrote
that he had only seen summer birds. I
don't know who did get a winter bird.
Hume had one or two autumnal ones obtained
near Simla but these did not come to
England till long after the Catalogue was
published so he drew upon his imagination
for the changes of plumage. These little
birds moult in autumn and again in Spring!

So do the wagtails & titlarks, *Aerocphalus*
also. I found it of no use collecting these
little birds in Feb & March on account
of the moult. I will add below the birds
sent you - Believe me yours & very truly
J. B. Brookes

- Falco tinnunculus*
- C. palustris*
- Circus cyaneus*
- Otocoris leucoloma* ♂ ♀
- Amphisp. garuda*
- Tachycineta thalassina* ♂ ♀
- Cypseloides niger*
- Myz. bairdi*
- Eur. aculeator* (2)
- No - *franklini*
- 2 Humming birds to
identify but not to
be returned. What are
they one is young.
Either 3 all are or
2 *niger*. *Falco*
Note true, *Columba*
is common here as
is *Circus*, with the
Prunella broadly banded below
with inferior

Mount Forest
Ontario
Canada

12.th Nov 1894

W^m Brewster Esq

Dear Sir

My son Allan left this more than a month ago for British Columbia. His address is,

Chilliwack
British Columbia

Thinking your letter might possibly contain a Money Order on Mount Forest, I opened it, so that I could have cashed it and forwarded it on by another Post Office order to Chilliwack.


With this letter to you, I post at the same time your letter of 7.th Nov to him.

He however tells me he has written to you from Chilliwack to give his present address, (Chilliwack)

He is now in a good collecting spirit again, and he will from time to time, I expect, let you know of his doings in the ornithological line.

Some time ago I think you had agreed to lend him a typical Amiata rostrata to draw and take very accurate particulars of. This he asked at my request.

I wonder would you be willing to lend one, a very characteristic big male with a decided convex bill,

Some what-like that of Passer domesticus . I forget the exact size and profile of the bill. This bird to be sent to Dr. Sclater Editor of the Ibis, if he engages to have a good plate published in the Ibis with a short notice of it & its ally L. hornmanni. Of the latter I would send a fine large male in full plumage, ^(I have several) and perhaps also typical L. exilipes and L. binaria if he decided upon figuring the whole, so as to contrast them all at a glance.

Of your fine species they have a most confused idea in England. I would send them carefully rolled in wool in a tin box by post, registered; and I would first get Sclater to guarantee a careful return. I would also urge him to take care that any interested enquirer should handle the specimen most carefully, so as not to ruffle it in the least. Sclater is also sect. of the Zoological Soc.?

I know him well, and I think he would do every thing as I have indicated. I would only send it if he did decide to figure it, and guaranteed its safe return.

I long to see this bird well figured, for it is pretty well regarded as mythical by the British Ornithologists.

If ever you are able to give me a good typical bird (♂) in the red plumage if possible I shall make it over to the British Museum. I know Dr. Sharpe very well, as I spent some time when home from India making notes of various types there: especially Hodgson's. I think there are some thousands of my specimens there which were presented by Mr. A. O. Hume when he made his large collection to the Museum, my types included.

If you are agreeable to what I propose I will write.

to be taken on the subject, and let you know his reply.

There is another bird I am greatly interested in; this is Falco richardsoni. I got Mr Armstrong (a collector in Texas as well as I remember) to send me one, but Allan declared it to be only a pale F. columbarius.

If it be really a distinct bird from F. columbarius and you can at any time let me see a bird clearly showing this, I should be very glad.

Allan seems to have come to the conclusion that there is no such species as F. richardsoni, and he says the number of bars on the tail is variable in F. columbarius.

A very interesting bird sent me by Canon Fitch the other day is his new Phylloscopus fortunatus from the Canary Islands. He thought it a close ally of P. trochilus, but I think it most distinct from every Phylloscopus; and its rounded wing, long strong bill, with almost a straight-like hook at the tip, and long strong tarsi would almost lead me not to put it into the genus Phylloscopus. As to its being a near ally of P. trochilus, this is out of the question entirely. With it he sent a British example of P. rufus; so apparently he now considers this its nearest ally.

He did not say any thing about the two birds sent, and I have not seen how will be deposited. The bird sent me is the "Smithsonian Instⁿ". He has not replied

W. E. Brooks

but he sent me a good large bundle of back
papers written by himself Nov. 12-1874 presumably in the Ohio.
But these were directed in Mrs. Tristram's handwriting.

I am afraid he is ill again. About a year ago
he had a paralytic stroke, and lost his speech for a
while. But he recovered it in about 2 months; but
at the time he wrote to me (Sept^r) he said he was not
yet able to preach, though he ~~occasionally~~ read the
Methodist services.

Hoping you will excuse this long letter

I remain

Yours truly

W. E. Brooks

W. E. Brooks, Mount Forest
Dec. 3-1894.

3rd Dec^r 1894

Dear Mr Brewster

I was glad to receive your letter of 27th ult^o

If you do publish the plates of Acornthis you speak of, I should greatly like to see a copy. I think in illustrations of birds for scientific purposes artistic effect is too much thought of. What is wanted is more of accurate coloured diagrams, or views of the bird from different points.

Now a side elevation won't always show the distinguishing characteristics, nor will a front or back view; but all the three will answer in most cases. Then I like enlarged diagrams of bill, plum or view from above, ⁺ side elevation. Of small birds these can be life size or also of feet, and again details of wing and opened tail. This was the way the late Mr Hodgson executed his drawings; and I have seen I think Platteau's plates with the same useful details. The proportions of the wing primaries, and especially of the first or "bastard primary" are most useful for identification in the dybaciidae, as I have often found when trying to determine them. The Ibis plates are merely pretty pictures, generally sufficient for scientific use, but sometimes not. The details being given on the blank portions of the plate don't spoil it at all I think, but make it of real value.

I don't think you have ever seen any of Allan's drawings of birds. Ask him to send you one or two. He has the faculty of depicting well the characteristics, and his form and colour are very accurate. Some of his water colour sketches I liked as well as any thing I have ever seen. I think you would be much

pleased with his work. He is rapid too in getting the effect he wants. DeSnyder praised his work greatly. He sent sketches of Japan birds he wanted identifying.

I shall be greatly pleased to see Falco richardsoni. Arrangements of Texas sent us one or two but they were Calurus, pale examples.

Allan writes that there are lots of Redpolls about; two sorts he thinks. I have asked him to get the other sort & send to me.

On the Lake where they are duck shooting, are 2 Falcons which take a hand in the sport & try to secure the wounded ducks (Mallards); one is Falco mexicanus, and the other "a fine adult gyrfalcon". I suppose that termed "Macfarlandi". I shot one of these when there. A most lonely bird marked something like one of the greater snowy owls. I spent the whole day over it till I got it, abandoning the duck sport.

Yours very truly
W. E. Brooks

If you complete your work I would give full sized diagrams of the bill of a. rostrata on your plate, perhaps contrasting it with that of a. horreorumanni. But the utterly different body coloration of the two species is abundantly distinctive; as is also the case in the two allied forms, exilis and liviana. W. E. B.

Mount Forest Ont.
22^d Dec 74

My dear Mr Brewster

I got the little box today with the 2 Falco richardsoni. I am greatly pleased with them. It is a truly good species.

Now where can I get a pair like yours adult ♂ & ♀? I mean to buy. Perhaps you can tell me of some collector who has the birds for sale. They are for the British Museum after I have taken what notes I want. At home they still believe the bird to be mythical.

I shall take the greatest care of the fine pair you have lent me & will return them soon registered. They were detained about 5 or 6 days at Orangeville the "Post of Entry". I shall make a complaint to the Canadian Post authorities. This systematic annoyance is despicable. It is still more vexatious when you have a bush or plant drying up at the place of detention as has often been the case with me for I frequently get fruit trees from Rochester and have had a good many killed by the delay.

I shall try and make a sketch of the two birds - I wish I could do so as well as Allard. Today in looking into Baird's book I found a formal sketch of his which I shall enclose. I never saw it before. He used

Brooks - W. E.
Dec. 22nd 1894.

dit - hours working away with his pencil as long
as he had any blank paper.

How would you define the ~~characteristic~~ distinctions
between F richardsoni & F columbianus? The males?

What to you are the most notable points.

It is clearly a generally lighter toned
bird.

Yours very truly

W. E. Brooks

Mount Forest
Ontario, Canada
22^d Feby 1895

Dear Mr Brewster

Tomorrow if all I am going to
refract and send to you the two examples
of Falco richardsoni.

Very many thanks for your kindness
in lending them to me.

I should have returned them very
much sooner had I not been trying
to get some of my own; and I have
succeeded in getting 3 good ones; a
pair of adult males and a female.

I have made my notes with the
whole 5 before me and having yours
also to refer to was very convenient.

Mine are from Larimer Co. Colorado.

Your ? I am afraid is a ♂ in first plumage
for it is too small and contrary to the
usual Falco rule of the ♀ considerably ex-
ceeding the male in size.

Mine is a shade darker than yours,

and the entire crown is strongly washed with ash gray, notably so on upper third of wing from carpus.

The rump is also decidedly ash gray with broad white edges to the feathers of the lower rows. The whole lower surface resembles your bird.

As is generally the case long. tot. in the flesh an important measurement is not given. The stern rather short than stretched measures 12 inches - wing 8.80 while yours has the wing ^{nearly} fully an inch shorter 7.85. Her tail is 5.50 against 5.00 of yours - Yours has the nuchal collar whiter than mine but it is very pronounced in mine. I take this nuchal collar to be a good distinctive mark

of the species contrasted with columbarius

Yours is a valuable bird if it is really a ♂ juv. But undersized birds do sometimes occur. The light rusty yellowish edges to all the upper surface brown feathers is more strongly marked in mine than yours but yours is distinct in this respect.

In the light rufous spots on webs of primaries the 2 birds are very similar.

On the first primary of each they are very narrow & creamy white in fact a sort of nearly

2

continuous creamy white line which widens a little opposite the bar of inner webs. The second primary of yours has the light-red spots rather small on the outer web, but mine has only a sort of continuous light-red mottling along side the shaft along the upper half of the feather, but from this onwards both birds have distinct outer web spots and of course inner web bars.

Is your ♀? The tail has one more bar than mine 6 light bars and the light tip; mine has 5 and the tip as in the male.

I had sent Allan a sketch of the "first" primary of yours but I rather think I wrote first when I should have written second. Referring to this he says - "the sketch of the first primary was most interesting; I saw at once from it what was the real distinction between it and columbarius, before I read Pidgeon's description, viz. the rufous marks on the outer webs of the primaries - I think this is a better distinction than any other." I think I told you that Mr Mc Ilwraith sent me his 3 "richardsoni" to look at. They were from Texas and were all columbarius all of ♀ size but one was marked ♂. They were in ♀ plumage. Bars on tail were from 3 to 5 inclusive of tip

But in the 5-banded one the style of bar was that of Columbarius & the broad ample tail was truly Columbarius. All three were dark toned birds & none of them had a nuchal collar. I sent him sketches of your bird, but he is of the same opinion still & calls them "my Richardsoni", and he says my sketch has the same "washed out" character observable in his Prairie birds.

It is not easy to sketch the ^{bird} wing ^(?) so as to show its characteristic difference from Columbarius. I think I shall draw the spread wing of my ♀ bird and let him try to match that with his Columbarius -

I have sent my birds to Allan & he may as well take a sketch or two before they go to England. I'd just like to see how he will deal with the light rufous edges to upper surface. I have failed trying body colour.

One of my males is very lovely, a very bright white blue grey above dark reddish brown or chestnut nuchal collar - black wings & tail the latter with blue grey bars as in yours & the former with some of the former broad, edged with white - upper tail coverts also bordered white. Wing 7.60; tail 4.70. Lower surface as in yours. The other male is rich blue grey & all dark streaks from head to upper tail coverts bold & black. Rufous collar dark chestnut, tail the same

3
wings blacker + less or almost no white
edges; a few of the upper tail coverts
have white ends. All dark shaft
streaks are about twice the width of
your bird. This is not such a smooth
specimen as the other or it would have
been extremely beautiful. But the
3 birds give a very good idea of
this fine species. Wing of this 2^d male
7.85; tail 14.90.

Yours very truly
W. G. Brooks

Brooks - N. E.

Feb. 22nd, 1895

Brooks - W. G.
March 10th. 1876.

Mount Forest, N.B.
Canada

10th March 1876

Dear Sir

I had a letter from Allan who tells me to let you know that he has got some birds for you which he will send in about a week's date (quantity is 24 Feb). Among them are two perfalcons he shot - which he sent me nice colour drawings. These I want to send to you to see if the authorities at home could determine the exact species. I sent a pair of Redpolls to you from Allan lately. Both L. tinnunculus though one was very mealy. But I have one rather white. The streaked upper & lower tail coverts determine it.

I had a letter from Dr Selator who says the next I hear of you I suppose will illustrate Falco richardsoni. I sent home 3 nice ones for the British Museum. One much lighter & darker blue than yours & a full sized female. I am inclined to think that one you so kindly lent me as ♀ is a young male. Young hawks are sometimes difficult to sex and if the parts are anyway injured by shot so it is quite difficult. But if any one could get the nestings the first plumage of the male would be determined. I remember getting you of F. sparverius for Mr H. Gurney.

I also got nestings of Aquila hastata Aquila v. indiana and the Indian Honey buzzard which now they write with Crotalaria. This used to be called ptilo hypoleucos in India.

I had notes also from the nest about this perfalcon. It appears to be rather close to H. islandicus and it is also somewhat like H. perfalco the European bird. One that Allan shot at & made

The heaviest fly with no a haw. he flew out
I can make it went away to die. The one I killed
is lighter toned & older than the mature one he is sending
you. Still it is not so dark toned as gyrfalco by
any means. The least bird is in first plumage plain
above heavily streaked below & tail plain. Back
dark bluish or slate grey & head darkish. If you are
any more of your own you will be able to come to some
conclusion. I have seen very little of these birds but

saw quite a number of undulatus the white greenish
tailed. Even the young of this is a white toned bird with no
cross barring. About the Iceland & Norwegian bird
we rather ignorant. I am half inclined to think
they may be identical but I have seen too few to come
to any fair conclusion. About H. labrador; Allan Miller
is only a melanotic form of gyrfalco but why then does
this dark form only occur in North America & not in Northern
Europe or Asia. It is true enough that we have dark forms of
some of the buzzard but it would not do to conclude from
this that Hierofalco is also subject to melanism.

I see Blanford has altered the name of the spotted eagle
to A. maculata. It has stood as A. clanga for long.

I have applied maculata to the lesser spotted eagle while
I gave the latter a new name conceiving that no existing
name was fairly applicable to it. It is very like haastata
except that maculata has no large rufous nuchal patch
or like the other birds has. Adults can hardly be separated.

I will send up about 300 crows bringing up my
own eagles and sundry fowls. Butcher meat alone
was afraid would not agree with my pets. The bones however
had the same fare. at least my pets were killed with a piece
meat & they are now in the British & Norwich museums.

Yours very truly

J. P. Brooks

J. P. Brooks

Do you see the bill of the bird in the picture? I have some in hand some to spare. 1893

Mount Forest
Ontario-Canada
24th Nov 1896

Dear Mr Brewster

Allan sent 3 Redpolls to me some time

ago desiring me to forward them to you in Oct.

I forgot but I hope I am not too late.

He thought they were crosses with L. exilipes - but

I think they are all Linaria. I dare say the two species

might interbreed, but the question is do they. Typical birds

of either are easy to make out. I don't think it is known

what young exilipes in first plumage are like and what

they are like after the autumnal moult. Whether they have

the unstriped rump and the unstriped lower tail coverts

from the very first. I have half an idea that there might

be some faint stripes at first in exilipes. Allan lays

great stress upon the small bill of exilipes: but size of bill

is a variable thing & though it might not be possible for

exilipes to have a full sized Linaria bill, Linaria might

some times have an undressed bill. Linaria is certainly

sometimes very grey with no buff or brown, but such

birds have generally rather worn plumage and appear

to have weathered to that degree of whiteness.

If I were a young man & were able to manage

it how much I should like to spend a spring, summer

& part of autumn at Unjawa to study all four birds

well and make an extensive collection showing all

their changes and variations. Equally well should I

like a considerable time in India mostly in the hill

Brooks - N. E. / Nov. 24. 96

districts to work out some of the somewhat obscure
Phylloscopi there, especially the one I named P. mandellii
The Russians appear to have met with this bird and term
it Reguloides superciliosus var. mandellii, but its affinities are
with Reg. humii. The Reguloides you know are now termed
Phylloscopus. My Phylloscopus sordianus, they term P. tristis
var. sordiana. This bird's affinities are with P. trochilus &
not with P. tristis. It is not a chaff chaff though of chaff
chaff coloration and instead of the weak sibilant note
of tristis it has a loud clear call very like that of the
English willow wren (P. trochilus) but in a higher key
It was Przevalski who met with my new willow wrens
in Central Asia. It was supposed by some that both
birds were resident species but it seems they are not.
There is one however which I think is truly Himalayan
Phylloscopus fuliginiventer. A very dusky, dark olive
bird with a slender bill. Mandelli got a few but I never
possessed a specimen. Mandelli was a tea planter in Szechuan
I knew him well & we exchanged many a bird. He borrowed
about \$500 from me & one night he suddenly committed suicide
after a quarrel with Mrs. Mandelli. I got about two third of the
money when the estates (tea gardens) were wound up. Home
bought the collection of birds stipulating that I was to be paid
but the judge who settled affairs would not allow me anything
beyond other creditors Mrs. M. was a half breed & nature
jealousy was irresistible to her & I think it was after some
heavy jewelry or other of hers that he killed her. He drank
a whole bottle of chlorodyne and when his wife came down stairs
soon after (he had got up at 5 am) & sent for the doctor it was too late
to save him.

Yours truly
M. S. Brooks

It would be a deathly life to see your paper on the Redpolls when published.
I see you made a later article showing that Acanthis is not applicable. I am sure he cannot

Mount Forest
Ont. Canada
23^d Jan'y 97

Dear Mr Brewster

Your 12th Inst. This is to be part of
the envelope to enclose Falco richardsoni. About
those Redpolls. Allan certainly does not want them
again I should say. He has not a complete collection
of that group - only some British Columbia ones unless
he has sent all he had to you. He has been getting a
few Leucosticte lately. Those very finches -

I thought those 3 Redpolls all Linaria. The young
birds of each species in their first plumage determined very
surely would be interesting. but they all appear to breed in
the same localities and the work would have to be carefully
done. Of course there should be no confounding rostrata with
horreoranni & still less confounding either of the large species
with the two smaller. as to hullboella. Typical St. John's examples
that I saw appeared to me to be pure Linaria. I suppose you have
specimens of the European reflexus? If you have not I can give
you one of mine. I think perhaps my set of redpolls might
be of use to you. I have such a complete variety of Linaria
from very grey brown & white to quite buffy birds. I have also
some curious half exilipes & half Linaria birds. Form of bill
is often characteristic but mere size I don't think is so important
unless the variation is something very striking. Poor Scothorn
could never see that exilipes was distinct from Linaria.
If you want the loan of my batch of redpolls you could send me
the young exilipes. before I send them. I don't suppose it would
be of any use sending my horreoranni to you they are so distinct &
characteristic. Yours truly
M. E. Beards

Wm Brewster
145 Brattle Street
Cambridge
Mass.
U. S. A.

Brockton - Or. B.
January 23, 97



Brooks - W. E.

Jan. 29, 1898

Mount Forest
Ont - Can
29 Jan 98

Dear Mr. Brewer

By this mail, I send
you all my Redpolls, including
3 L. rufescens from poor old
Huncuck.

If you take a fancy to this little
collection you can have it for
\$20 if you don't think it too dear.
I have no further use for it &
would like some one to have it to
whom it would be of use.

However don't let me urge it upon
you by any means - You can keep
it for years, for I have taken my
last look at those little birds
till some far future time in the
new world: and what will the
new ornithology be? I hope all
our old favourites.

What I am greatly interested in
is your forthcoming paper on

The Lonicera group as Delatour
views it. He contended that
Acanthis = Carduelis quite
another group.

I am sorry to hear you have
been so ill. I wish I knew what
your now-rare-complaint of. One
of the main organs must be affected
& what is it? In my long life
from 1828 I have had quite a few
troubles - nearly dead with resuscitating
twice. The doctor coming 3 times a
day told its own tale. Pneumonia
once. Given up then. Congestion of the
lungs ever so many times. Asthma -
not it for life but not bad. Fevers
remittent intermittent, jungle I
told to get 'off out of India sharp
or 'ol die. Dyspepsia, I am the
dyspeptic & yet I cannot resist
a pie. I smoked in India till I
made myself positively ill with

Cannabis and golden leaf and all little delicacies
of root-etc & now I have a "smoker's heart" & shall
die of it soon or later. Got a bad attack now
of weak heart brought on by taking a sack of flour
round the waist & carrying it into the house to my
daughter's room. You'll surely be ill she said & I said
I feel all right, but I was all wrong next day &
am still suffering badly from the over exertion.
The doctor here tells me I am liable to heart failure
at any moment. He is quite right for I feel it.

Now would you change plans with me? But have you
ever tried the tonic Chiretta? Is greatly used in India by
the natives when they cannot get quinine. It is a very
valuable tonic & acts well on the liver. I just make
a tea of it & take a wine glass full of it after each
meal or half a wine glass full if you like. It just
makes me up when all the ordinary tonics fail
and a mixture of it & iron, say Blands & gavin
pills, with each glass of Chiretta will make a new
man of you. But I have used the things on all tonics
& everything else & nothing can touch me hard
now. Some untried tonic might reach me but nothing else
will. Very weak heart & vis. vis. is how I am situated
just now.

About exilifer juv, after I see your paper I'd like to
see you of this & loriana together. but where can we get
a decided quantity of loriana -

So bring out your paper soon or I shall have shuffled
off this mortal coil perhaps. It is impossible to carry on
much longer with a heart that won't do its work at all
now. I wonder have you been a heavy smoker.



If I only had never touched
tobacco, Ten years enjoyment
& a life of misery.

about the Redpolls. Your
rostrata is as good a species as
any one could wish to have.

A separate lonaria.

Korremanni is a separate

exilipes. Exilipes is an Arctic

species with differently formed bill
from lonaria  against 

apart from plumage. The vent,
little sh. bluntly acute bill of
the latter denotes a widely distinct
bird from the almost spatulate
billed lonaria. As to haellbøllii
høllbøllii, I forget how it is
spelled now. I don't see its distinct-
ness from lonaria & I think it
a bad species. But I only had a

few sent me by Stejneger
They were Scaphiopus specimens,
I think I did not see anything
in them exactly different from
Linnaeus. I may be wrong.

As to Stejneger's Scaphiopus I should
example herewith sent you, it
is Linnaeus I think but it is
such a bad specimen. But the
drawing is you must not see a
p. of horse in the mouth & it was
a gift. But he is a bad skinner.
Allen is the boy for a well put
up skin. I wish I could have
quailed him with many a fine
bird I have had through my
Clemens hands. But he has no
mind of his own when at this work
a woman drawing.

About integrating of species

The two Rollers of India interbreed affinis & indica
& Minor. They are mixed but both are quite distinct. In
Northern & western India you only have indica in Assam
& Eastern Bengal only affinis. In the Custom you get
garuda. Otto Muller a friend of mine a tea planter shot
2 Rollers from the nest - male & female were of different
species indica & affinis. So an occasional interbreeding
of linaria and trilix where both are found would
prove nothing whatever beyond affinity. Both are
common in Siberia, European & Asiatic.

This has been a terribly hurried scribble
so make every allowance for it.

I hope you will soon be in good health
again - When you have time I should like
much to know what is your best diet.

Do you know that inhaling steam, the
smoke of dried mullein leaves is simply
grand in all chest complaints. Nothing
gave me such relief when I had my opening
asthmatic attack last year.

Yours truly
W. Brooks